



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	HUASNA, California	Accident Number:	ANC24LA021
Date & Time:	April 6, 2024, 11:33 Local	Registration:	N8907B
Aircraft:	Cessna 172	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)	Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Air drop		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he was conducting a series of aerial drops for training. After the third pass, he was unable to attain a positive rate of climb. The airplane continued to descend, and the right main landing gear contacted the ground and separated. The airplane veered right and impacted a metal pipe corral fence resulting in substantial damage to the leftwing strut and firewall. The pilot reported no pre-impact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's failure to maintain adequate airspeed during low altitude maneuvers, resulting in a loss of control.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Climb capability - Incorrect use/operation
Aircraft	Airspeed - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Aerodynamic stall/spin
Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT) (Defining event)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	72, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	BasicMed With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 21, 2022
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	November 9, 2023
Flight Time:	725 hours (Total, all aircraft), 526 hours (Total, this make and model), 632 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Other flight crew Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	Male
Airplane Rating(s):		Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):		Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Unknown	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N8907B
Model/Series:	172	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1958	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Unknown	Serial Number:	36707
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	October 19, 2023 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	13.6 Hrs	Engines:	1
Airframe Total Time:	4465 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KSMX, 243 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	25 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	11:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	61°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 3500 ft AGL	Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/ None	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	Unknown / Unknown
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	Unknown / Unknown
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	San Luis Obispo, CA (KSBP)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	HUASNA, CA	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	11:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Huasna Ranch None	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt;Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	200 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	34	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2400 ft / 50 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	35,-120(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Joyce, Stacia

Additional Participating Persons: M Smith; FAA; CA

Original Publish Date: May 3, 2024

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class 4](#)

Note: The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=194055>

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The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).