



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	SNELLING, California	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX85LA105
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	January 10, 1985, 16:40 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N99021
<b>Aircraft:</b>	BELL 204	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

## Analysis

PLT VACATED THE ACFT WITH ENGINE AT IDLE & WITH THE BLADES TURNING TO REFUEL. THE LANDING PLATFORM MOUNTED ON THE 'NURSE' TRUCK WAS SLIPPERY FROM AN OIL & COPPER MIXTURE USED IN THE SPRAYING OPERATION. THE HELICOPTER STARTED TO SLIDE & THE PLT REBOARDED JUST AS IT FELL OFF THE TRUCK.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

### Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER  
Phase of Operation: STANDING - IDLING ROTORS

#### Findings

1. (C) AIRCRAFT UNATTENDED/ENGINE(S) RUNNING - INTENTIONAL - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) COMPLACENCY - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) JUDGMENT - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	58, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Right
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Invalid Medical for flight	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	December 31, 1983
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	30450 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1000 hours (Total, this make and model), 30450 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 55 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	BELL	<b>Registration:</b>	N99021
<b>Model/Series:</b>	204 204	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Helicopter
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Restricted (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	64-13949
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Skid	<b>Seats:</b>	
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	April 2, 1984 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	8600 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Turbo shaft
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	36829 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	653-11
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	BETTENCOURT FLYING SERVICE INC	<b>Rated Power:</b>	1100 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>		<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	MER ,153 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	18 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	16:55 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	185°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 3000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	6 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	1 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	350°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	9°C / 5°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	N/A - None - Haze		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	DELHI , CA	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	15:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	0 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	0 ft / 0 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	None

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	37.540985,-120.450645(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Pyatt, M

**Additional Participating Persons:** LARRY PERKINS; FRESNO , CA

**Original Publish Date:**

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class](#)

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=24630>

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