



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	BALLICO, California	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX85LA113
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	January 10, 1985, 15:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N68444
<b>Aircraft:</b>	FAIRCHILD M-62C	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

## Analysis

AT THE CONCLUSION OF A LOCAL AERIAL APPLICATION FLT, ACFT EXPERIENCED A LOSS OF POWER AND COLLIDED WITH TREES DURING THE SUBSEQUENT FORCED LANDING. EXAMINATION OF THE AIRCRAFT REVEALED A BROKEN FUEL FEED LINE AFT OF THE WOBBLE PUMP AND NO FUEL IN THE LINES OR COMPONENTS FORWARD OF THAT POINT.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

### Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

#### Findings

1. (C) FUEL SYSTEM,LINE - FAILURE,TOTAL
2. FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION

Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

#### Findings

3. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE
4. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	50, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Center
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<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 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	March 9, 1984
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	6080 hours (Total, all aircraft), 270 hours (Total, this make and model), 6011 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 50 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	FAIRCHILD	<b>Registration:</b>	N68444
<b>Model/Series:</b>	M-62C M-62C	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Restricted (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	4593-AE
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	December 21, 1984 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2900 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	2 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	4100 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	P&W
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	R-985
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	AG AVIATION, INC.	<b>Rated Power:</b>	450 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 ,150 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	9 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	15:55 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	125°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 5000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	6 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	9 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	340°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	11°C / 6°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	N/A - None - Haze		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	TURLOCK , CA (015 )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	15:05 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Gravel
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	159 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	0 ft / 0 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Forced landing

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<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 Minor	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	37.469699,-120.649925(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Rich, Jeff

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

**Original Publish Date:**

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=24636>

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