



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	LINDSAY, California	Accident Number:	LAX85LVA03
Date & Time:	May 20, 1985, 08:00 Local	Registration:	N1316X
Aircraft:	BELL 47-G5	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

THE ACFT MADE A FORCED LANDING IN A BEET FIELD FOLLOWING A NOISE IN THE ENG OR TRANSMISSION. AFTER HE HEARD A NOISE THE PLT AUTO-ROTATED AND DURING THE HARD LANDING THE ACFT WAS DAMAGED.

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
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	56, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 22, 1985
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	16000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 6000 hours (Total, this make and model), 16000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BELL	Registration:	N1316X
Model/Series:	47-G5 47-G5	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted (Special)	Serial Number:	7827
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	December 24, 1984 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	120 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5662 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	VO-435-BIA
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	260 Horsepower
Operator:	M&W FLYING SERVICE, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	
Operator Does Business As:	N/A	Operator Designator Code:	N/A

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	VIS ,292 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	15 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	14:49 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	300°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	310°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	17°C / -18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	PORTERVILLE , CA (PTV)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	LINDSAY , CA	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	07:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	Dirt
Airport Elevation:	0 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry,Ice
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	0 ft / 0 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	36.199016,-119.079643(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Shamp, Jim

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date:

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=24853>

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

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](#).