



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Bakersfield, California	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX05LA187
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	May 25, 2005, 08:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N110DT
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Bell 47G-4A	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

## Analysis

The helicopter collided with power lines and crashed in a cotton field while conducting aerial application operations. The pilot completed his first pass from west to east across the north end of the potato field. As he came in for his second pass, the helicopter struck power lines that ran north and south along the west side of the potato field. The helicopter came down in an adjacent cotton field. The pilot said he saw the power lines just prior to striking them.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's inadequate visual lookout and failure to maintain clearance from the power lines.

### Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - AERIAL APPLICATION

#### Findings

1. (F) OBJECT - WIRE, TRANSMISSION
2. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

## Factual Information

On May 25, 2005, about 0800 Pacific daylight time, a Bell 47G-4A, N110DT, collided with power lines and crashed in a cotton field while conducting aerial application operations near Bakersfield, California. Inland Crop Dusters, Inc., was operating the local area agricultural flight under the provisions of 14 CFR Part 137. The commercial pilot, the sole occupant, sustained serious injuries; the helicopter was destroyed. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan had been filed. The flight departed Shafter Field in Bakersfield at 0700. The approximate global positioning system (GPS) coordinates of the primary wreckage were 35 degrees 23 minutes north latitude and 119 degrees 19 minutes west longitude.

In a written statement, the operator said the pilot was conducting aerial application operations over a potato field. The pilot completed his first pass from west to east across the north end of the potato field. As he came in for his second pass, the helicopter struck power lines that ran north and south along the west side of the potato field. The helicopter came down in an adjacent cotton field, lifted back off the ground, flipped over, and hit the ground again, bursting into flames.

A Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) representative spoke with the pilot. The pilot stated that he saw the power lines just prior to striking them.

The operator submitted a Pilot/Operator Aircraft Accident Report (NTSB Form 6120.1/2).

The pilot stated that the helicopter and engine had no mechanical failures or malfunctions during the flight.

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial; Private	<b>Age:</b>	42, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<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>		<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Without waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	June 1, 2004
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	January 1, 2004
<b>Flight Time:</b>	3531 hours (Total, all aircraft), 120 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 60 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Bell	<b>Registration:</b>	N110DT
<b>Model/Series:</b>	47G-4A	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Helicopter
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Restricted (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	7631
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Skid	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	May 1, 2005 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2950 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	2 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	10128 Hrs at time of accident	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Lycoming
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	VO-540-B1B3
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	Inland Crop Dusters, Inc.	<b>Rated Power:</b>	280 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>		<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	PWWG

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	BFL,507 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	16 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	07:54 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	77°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	5 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	120°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.9 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	23°C / 8°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Shafter, CA (KMIT)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	07:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	On-ground
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	35.383609,-119.333053

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Jones, Patrick
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Larry A DeCosta; Federal Aviation Administration ; Fresno, CA
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	August 29, 2006
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=61582">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=61582</a>

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