

National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, DC 20594

Brief of Accident

Adopted 12/28/2004

LAX03LA173
File No. 16940 05/30/2003 Tracy, CA Aircraft Reg No. N139RH Time (Local): 19:14 PDT

Make/Model: Aero Vodochody / L-39
Engine Make/Model: Aero Engines / AI-25L
Aircraft Damage: Destroyed
Number of Engines: 1
Operating Certificate(s): None
Type of Flight Operation: Air Race/Show
Reg. Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation

	Fatal	Serious	Minor/None
Crew	1	0	0
Pass	0	0	0

Last Depart. Point: Byron, CA
Destination: Local Flight
Airport Proximity: On Airport
Airport Name: New Jeruselem
Runway Identification: 12
Runway Length/Width (Ft): 4000 / 100
Runway Surface: Asphalt
Runway Surface Condition: Dry

Condition of Light: Day
Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility
Basic Weather: Visual Conditions
Lowest Ceiling: None
Visibility: 10.00 SM
Wind Dir/Speed: 300 / 012 Kts
Temperature (°C): 25
Obstr to Vision: None
Precipitation: None

Pilot-in-Command Age: 48

Flight Time (Hours)

Certificate(s)/Rating(s)
Airline Transport; Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land
Instrument Ratings
Airplane

Total All Aircraft: 14000
Last 90 Days: Unk/Nr
Total Make/Model: 16
Total Instrument Time: 900

The single engine, two seat, jet airplane impacted the ground while pulling out of a low level loop. The airplane was practicing low level team aerobatics with two other similar jet airplanes. The established hard deck for the practice was 1,000 feet. The lead jet entered a loop maneuver at about 1,500 feet and impacted the ground while pulling out at the bottom of the maneuver. During the end of the maneuver the wings rocked and the nose pitched down. Examination of the ejection seat mechanism disclosed no evidence that the pilot attempted to eject from the airplane. No evidence of a control system malfunction was found and the damage to the engine was consistent with it developing significant power at ground impact.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. AEROBATICS - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. LOW ALTITUDE FLIGHT/MANEUVER - ATTEMPTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.
the pilot's failure to maintain adequate terrain clearance while performing low level aerobatics.