



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Calabasas, CA	Accident Number:	DCA20MA059
Date & Time:	01/26/2020, 0945 PST	Registration:	N72EX
Aircraft:	Sikorsky S76	Injuries:	9 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

On January 26, 2020, about 0945 PST, a Sikorsky S76B helicopter, N72EX, crashed into hilly terrain near Calabasas, California. A post impact fire ensued and resulted in a brush fire. The eight passengers and one pilot onboard were fatally injured and the helicopter was destroyed. The helicopter was operated by Island Express Helicopters. Weather at Van Nuys airport, about 14 miles northeast of the site was reported as 1,100 feet overcast with 2 1/2 miles visibility. The flight was operated under the provisions of 14 CFR Part 135 under visual flight rules from John Wayne Airport (KSNA), Santa Ana, California, to Camarillo Airport (KCMA), Camarillo, California.

An Investigative Webpage is located at
<https://www.ntsb.gov/investigations/Pages/DCA20MA059.aspx>.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Sikorsky	Registration:	N72EX
Model/Series:	S76 B	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	Island Express	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Commuter Air Carrier (135)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KVNY, 900 ft msl	Observation Time:	
Distance from Accident Site:	14 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / ,
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 1100 ft agl	Visibility:	2.5 Miles
Altimeter Setting:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Santa Ana, CA (KSNA)	Destination:	Camarillo, CA (KCMA)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	8 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	9 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	William R English
Additional Participating Persons:	
Note:	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.