

**AERIAL GUNNING CRASH REPORT
USDA/APHIS/WILDLIFE SERVICES
Wendy Keefover-Ring *Sinapu*, 1979-2007**

Accident and Injury Summary

No Injuries 8 crashes with no injuries
Minor Injuries 21
Serious Injuries 5
Fatal Injuries 10

**Total Accidents 26
Total Injuries/Fatalities 36**

DATE	LOCATION	IN- JURY	CAUSE OF CRASH	TYPE OF AIRCRAFT & ENGINE
6/1/07	Wayne County, UT NTSB Report	Fatal Fatal	Under investigation.	Husky A-1
1/30/06	Gail, TX NTSB Report	None None	The “airplane settled into a mesquite tree thicket while maneuvering” at low altitude.	Piper PA-18-150
12/20/04	Terreton, ID NTSB Report	Serious Minor	Circling at low altitude, the “control stick went ‘limp,’ the tail went up.”	Christen Industries A-1
12/01/04	Jal, NM NTSB Report	None	Pilot hit powerlines while trying to land to pick up gunner.	Piper PA-18-150
7/14/03	Ely, NV NTSB Report	None None	In a practice landing while training for Wildlife Services, engine problems ensued. A wheel slid off the road and the craft landed in a ditch and flipped.	Piper PA-18-150
6/25/03	Big Timber, MT NTSB Report	Minor Minor	Engine lost power.	McDonnell Douglas 369E
3/8/02	Winnemucca, NM NTSB Report	None None	Lost engine power on landing following 5.5 hours of flying on a “local area animal control flight.”	Piper PA-18-150

SINAPU's AERIAL GUNNING CRASH REPORT: AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS INVOLVING THE USDA's Wildlife Services

Page 2 of 3

5/7/01	Conchas, NM NTSB Report	None None	Aircraft sustained substantial damage while on coyote hunt. Engine failure possibly due to flying at low altitude in high humidity.	Hiller-UH12
6/1/00	Austin, NV NTSB Report	Minor Minor	Aircraft "collided with the ground" while flying at low altitude	Piper PA-18-150
3/27/00	Del Rio, TX NTSB Report	Fatal Fatal	No witnesses saw the accident; investigators suggest an "in-flight loss of control . . . [and] in-flight collision with terrain."	Hughes HU-269C
3/13/00	Rio Vista, CA NTSB Report	Serious Minor	Pilot was flying in an area cluttered with wind turbines and powerlines. He hit a line and plunged 120 feet.	Piper PA-18-150
2/19/99	Battle Mtn, NV NTSB Report	None None	While in a turn, the plane encountered turbulence.	Christen, A-1
3/11/98	Lebec, CA NTSB Report	Fatal Serious	During a turn, the plane's wing struck the ground. Pilot's shoulder harness was modified.	Christen A-1, N9615G
1/22/98	Brackettsville, TX NTSB Report	Minor Minor	Engine failure caused helicopter to plunge from 75' to the ground.	Hughes 269C Lycoming HIO360D1A
1/15/98	Magdalena, NM NTSB Report	None None	Pilot lost lift and rotor RPM when coming out of a canyon.	Bell 47G3B1 Lycoming TVO435B1A
1/14/98	Spanish Fork, UT NTSB Report	Minor Fatal	Helicopter struck a tree on passenger side after engine failure.	Bell 47G-3B-2 Lycoming TVO435G1A
4/7/97	Capitan, NM NTSB Report	Minor Minor	Flying at 35' – engine failure. Estimated \$100,000 in damage to vehicle.	Bell TH-13T Lycoming TVO435B1A
10/10/96	Holden, UT NTSB Report	Fatal Fatal	Crash attributed to poor mainten-ance and flying 75lbs overweight.	Piper PA-18-150 Lycoming 0-320-B2B
2/1/96	Lakeview, OR NTSB Report	Minor Minor	Pilot distracted by gunner's jammed rifle – crashed plane.	Christen Lycoming 0-360-C1G
1/12/95	Dumont, TX NTSB Report	Minor Minor	Flying at 40' engine failed "catastrophically".	Hughes 269C Lycoming HIO360D1A
8/10/94	Tinnie, NM NTSB Report	None None	A "wildlife observation mission." Pilot hit road sign during takeoff following a hunt on the Jim Cooper Ranch.	Christen Husky A-1 Lycoming 0-36-C7G
6/20/94	London, TX NTSB Report	Minor Minor	While flying at low altitude, pilot experienced "partial power loss".	Hughes 269C Lycoming HI0-360D1A
1/7/93	Council, ID NTSB Report	Minor Minor	Crashed on an unplowed runway.	Piper PA-18-135 Lycoming 0-320-B2B
11/8/89	Alamagordo, NM	Serious	While shooting coyotes, "airplane collided with the	Douglas C-54B

SINAPU's AERIAL GUNNING CRASH REPORT: AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS INVOLVING THE USDA's Wildlife Services

Page 3 of 3

	NTSB Report	Serious	ground”.	
5/12/86	Wilcox, AZ (no NTSB record)	Minor Minor	Plane stalled and crashed while hunting coyotes. Crash due to pilot error. Pilot fired.	Piper PA-18
8/15/79	Artesia, NM NTSB Report	Fatal Fatal	Probable vortex turbulence and failure to maintain flying speed.	Piper PA-18