Island Express Helicopters
Sikorsky S-76B, N72EX
Calabasas, CA
January 26, 2020
Investigator-in-Charge Overview
Initial Information

- On-demand Part 135 charter
- Santa Ana to Camarillo
- Widespread marine layer
- Single pilot, visual flight rules (VFR) flight
- Pilot had 10 years experience flying in area
Flight Path

To Camarillo

Requested clearance

Burbank class C

Departed 0907
Flight Path

To Camarillo

Van Nuys class D

Burbank class C

Departed 0907

Requested clearance
Flight Path

To Camarillo

Van Nuys class D
Flight Path

To Camarillo

Too low for flight following

Van Nuys class D
Flight Path

Contacted ATC again

To Camarillo

Van Nuys class D
Flight Path
Climb, Turn, and Rapid Descent

To Camarillo

Location of camera

2,000 ft msl
Climb, Turn, and Rapid Descent

To Camarillo

2,400 ft msl
Climb, Turn, and Rapid Descent

Left descending turn

To Camarillo
Climb, Turn, and Rapid Descent

Left descending turn

To Camarillo

Impact site
Safety Issues

- VFR flight into instrument conditions
  - Self-induced pressure
  - Plan continuation bias
- Spatial disorientation
  - Physiological factors
  - Vestibular illusions
Safety Issues

- Spatial disorientation training and simulation
- Safety management system (SMS)
  - Reiteration of SMS for Part 135 operators
- Flight data recording and monitoring
  - Reiteration of flight data monitoring for Part 135 operators