



CLOSE CALL—U. S. Forest Service officials examine the wreckage of a Tri-Pacer aircraft that crashed last weekend, apparently shortly after take-off from Big Bear City Airport. The plane apparently lost power and fell to earth near Skyline Drive, south of Big Bear Lake. The two occupants received minor injuries. Photo courtesy Jeff E. Geyer of Fallbrook.

La Mesa men injured in plane crash Sunday

Two La Mesa men escaped with minor injuries Sunday, July 6 when the small plane they were flying apparently lost power and crashed just off Skyline Drive near Big Bear Lake.

Charles Brunkow, the pilot and owner of the 2-seater Tri-Pacer, and Lawrence McArron, his passenger, were flown by Sheriff's helicopter to Loma Linda Hospital and treated for minor cuts and bruises. Both were said to be in their 50s.

Sheriff's deputy Gary Penrod said the white and orange craft apparently lost power, clipped two small pine trees, and crashed

about 50 feet below the ridge of Skyline Drive. The plane was demolished.

The craft was headed northwest when the accident occurred about 2:30 p.m. and apparently had just taken off from Big Bear City Airport. Another pilot flying in the vicinity saw the plane go down and notified authorities.