

**CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**Aircraft Accident Investigation and Inquiry Board**  
**Aircraft Accident Report**

**BASIC INFORMATION**

Aircraft Registration No. : RP-C7838  
Make and Model : Cessna 172M  
Owner/Operator : Leading Edge International Aviation Academy Inc.  
Address of Operator : San Fernando Airport, Poro Point Freeport Zone, San Fernando City, La Union  
Date/Time of Accident : October 21, 2016/1538H  
Place of Accident : Santiago Cove, Brgy. Sabangan, Santiago, Ilocos Sur  
Type of Operation : Flight Training  
Phase of Operation : Cruise  
Type of Occurrence : Collision with Zip Line

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On October 21, 2016, RP-C7838 was scheduled on a cross-country navigation flight from San Fernando, La Union to Vigan, Ilocos Sur and back to San Fernando, La Union.

The aircraft took off from San Fernando Airport. On board in this flight were one (1) Flight Instructor (FI) and one (1) Student Pilot (SP).

At 1456H the aircraft arrived at Vigan Airport where the FI and SP performed series of touch and go (4 times).

At 1508 the aircraft departed Vigan Airport enroute back to San Fernando Airport via Ilocos Sur- La Union shore line.

RP-C7838 was last heard from Unicom frequency 121.9 MHz reporting over Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur at 2,500 feet altitude.

The aircraft was seen heading east entering Santiago Cove.

The aircraft collided with the zip line traversing between Villas Vitalis Resort on the north and a receiving structure on the south of the cove.

The aircraft crashed into the water at Brgy. Sabangan, Santiago, Ilocos Sur approximately 15 Nautical Miles (NM) South of Vigan, Ilocos Sur and 40 NM North of San Fernando, La Union

The Flight Instructor and Student Pilot sustained fatal injuries.

The aircraft wreckage was located 20 feet under water and approximately 600 meters from the north shoreline of Santiago Cove.

## **PROBABLE CAUSE**

The decision of the Flight Instructor to deviate from their track and descent below the required minimum safe altitude for VFR flight that resulted in a collision with a zip line.

## **SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS**

As a result of this investigation, the Aircraft Accident Investigation and Inquiry Board made the following safety recommendations:

- CAAP-FSIS to ensure that the memorandum issued by Company's Accountable Manager to the Head of Training dated October 26, 2016 is being implemented and incorporated in the Training and Procedures Manual.
- CAAP-FSIS to review the School's SMS implementation and highlight the importance of establishing confidential reporting system to proactively report deviation from standards, errors, near misses and hazards while protecting the reporter's identity.