

MOTION

TRADE, TRAVEL AND TOURISM

A small aircraft crash occurred on April 20, 2026, in Pacoima, California, following a departure from Whiteman Airport. The crash, reported at approximately 11:00 a.m. near the intersection of San Fernando Road and Van Nuys Boulevard, caused significant disruption to the surrounding community.

93 residents have been left without power for over 24 hours, traffic is severely impacted, and substantial emergency response resources are being required from the Los Angeles Fire Department, Los Angeles Police Department, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. This incident impacted five poles and four spans of cable, which will require significant excavation to reset the poles, placing a considerable strain on already limited public resources.

The aircraft departed from Whiteman Airport, a Los Angeles County-operated facility that has long raised safety and well-being concerns among Pacoima residents. Unfortunately, this crash is not an isolated occurrence, but rather part of a troubling pattern of aviation-related incidents associated with the airport.

According to NTSB records, at least 16 aviation accidents have been linked to Whiteman Airport since 2009. Notable incidents include:

- In 2018, a Cessna 150L struck a building, resulting in the deaths of the pilot and a 12-year-old passenger.
- In 2020, a Cessna 182 struck power lines and crashed onto a residential street, resulting in the pilot's death.
- On January 9, 2022, a plane made an emergency landing on Metrolink tracks and was struck by a train shortly after the pilot was rescued.
- On April 20, 2022, a fatal crash occurred on an embankment adjacent to the 210 Freeway.

These repeated incidents raise serious concerns about operational safety, oversight, and risk mitigation at Whiteman Airport.

I THEREFORE MOVE to request the City Administrative Officer in consultation with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles Fire Department to report on the total costs associated with addressing this plane crash on April 20, 2026 in Pacoima.

PRESENTED BY:

Monica Rodriguez

MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, District 7

SECONDED BY:

Amador Padilla

ORIGINAL

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APR 21 2026