

Flying and Falling

Skateboarder Jake Brown rocketed down the 300-foot-long (91-m) Mega Ramp. He soared across a 70-foot (21-m) **gap** and launched his best trick. He was trying to complete a double spin called a **720**. It was the first time anyone had tried to do the **stunt** in **Big Air** history.

Jake landed it! Then he sped up the **quarterpipe** to the finish. Suddenly, the skateboard flew one way and Jake flew another. He fell 45 feet (14 m)—almost five stories—to the ground.

Jake lay motionless, crumpled in a heap. Then, amazingly, he was able to get up and walk. Jake was then rushed to the hospital. He was lucky to have survived.



Jake soars off the Mega Ramp.



Jake losing his board before falling hard during the Big Air competition

When Jake fell, he was competing in the Big Air competition at **X Games 13** in Los Angeles, California, in 2007. This event gives skateboarders nightmares. Why? The Mega Ramp is so high that skaters need to use an elevator to reach the starting point.