

2.65 Landing Site Selection

Selection of a landing site should be based on wind conditions where the clearance of obstacles will create no problems.

WARNING

Ensure there are no power lines in the landing area!!

Allow at least 100 feet horizontal separation from power lines or other hazardous obstacles downwind of the balloon for each mph of wind speed.

Preferably, make all landings downwind of such obstacles after crossing them at a safe altitude. If winds are gusty, thermic, or otherwise unstable, be especially cautious.

This guideline will vary with experience levels, loading, and gust conditions for each instance. The pilot-in-command is responsible to exercise judgement for the safe conduct of the flight.

2.7 LANDING CHECKS

- * Deflation panel/vent actuating line(s) available.
- * Operating on fuel tank with sufficient fuel.
- * Equipment safely secured.
- * Helmets as required.
- * Passengers briefed.

On Touchdown

- * Main burner off to prevent fabric damage during movement of envelope into flame area.
- * Deflation panel actuation as necessary.

CAUTION

Passengers should be briefed to expect the possibility of "rebound" and a second landing in windy conditions.

NOTE

Wind conditions will dictate whether or not the panel must be opened for rapid deflation. Moderate to strong winds will require immediate deflation. Continuous tension on actuation line is required for rapid deflation.

2.8 POST LANDING

As soon as possible after landing is assured:

- * Shut off pilot light at burner.
- * Close all fuel tank valves.

As time permits:

- * Bleed off fuel remaining in lines.

CAUTION

Ensure main and pilot flames are fully extinguished and the skirt and envelope are clear of hot areas.

- * Milk residual air from envelope.
- * Disconnect envelope and burner from basket.
- * Disconnect all related equipment and store i.e., instruments, radios, electronic blast, P1, P2, P3, (opt,)...
- * Place envelope in storage bag.

3.29 Emergency/Hard Landing or High Wind Landing

Descent:

1. Brief passengers to:
 - a. Put on protective helmets immediately.
 - b. Face direction of travel.
 - c. Hold on to basket aluminum superstructure.

CAUTION

Do not hold on to suspension cables, fuel lines or fittings. Hand injuries or fuel system damage may result.

- d. Bend knees slightly, muscles tense.
 - e. Observe landing progression.
 - f. Remain in basket until instructed otherwise.
2. Open deflation panel at 10-20 feet AGL as necessary and maintain firm pull on line to facilitate rapid deflation and prevent rebound.

NOTE

In high wind conditions, the deflation panel must be pulled and held open to minimize the sail effect on the envelope and bring the balloon to a stop as quickly as possible. Opening the deflation panel will also minimize the possibility of rebound which may result in a second and more dangerous landing.

Landing:

3. Stay in the basket until it comes to rest or a safe exit can be made by all passengers simultaneously.