

Docket No. SA-539

Exhibit No. 5-I

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Washington, D.C.

Meteorology – Attachment 10

(3 Pages)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 7:04 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Witness Statement/Picture of Balloon
Attachments: Hot-air balloon - Hwy 80-Toll130 073016(1).JPG; Hot-air balloon - Hwy 80-Toll130 073016(2).JPG; Hot-air balloon - Hwy 80-Toll130 073016(4).JPG; sunrise hwy80 073016(1).JPG

Hello [REDACTED],

The date of the photos is July 30th, the time of the photos the 1st one was at 7:07am and the 2nd one was at 7:16 am. For the first photo we were going down highway 80 towards Fentress, TX and I took it as my husband was driving so the shot is facing out the driver side window or front window, I can't recall. On the second one we were on our way back to Staples, TX and pulled over on the side of the road to take the photo just passed Toll 130. The second one looked like they were very low and there were a lot of people in the basket. we were pretty far away but we can still see the little heads moving in the basket. I remember telling my husband "that's a lot of people" and he said "they are able to carry a certain number of people based on the size of the basket and that's a huge basket", my next comment was "why is he so low?" my husband said "it can be the weight of the basket or the fog or both". I said he seems like he needs to climb if he is going to go over Highway 80" my husband says "he really goes the way the wind blows". I said "either way he needs to climb, he seems to be right above tree tops" he said "i am sure he knows what he is doing, I've seemed him flight many times before".

When we pulled over for the last photo I was trying to get a photo with the flames blowing hot air into the balloon but the timing was not right, he was not doing it often enough and I did not have the patience to wait very long maybe 5 to 10 minutes and he only did it about 2 to 3 times in the time we were on the side of the road. On the side of the road we passed two white SUVs. which my husband commented must be the chase crew of the balloon.

It really began as a beautiful morning, it looked bright and you can see the sun begin to rise, I've attached that photo from 6:56 am. as we went down highway 80 is that we began noticing the fog. the further we got the foggier it got, you really can't see that in the photos.

I hope this helps you out a bit with the investigation, I had posted the photos on my Instagram account that morning, shortly after taking the photos and that afternoon my daughter-in-law in Kansas texted me saying " the balloon burned and people died", then i began getting text from friends asking if the balloon in my photo was the one that burned. It was very sad to hear, when friends heard you guys were asking for pictures I started getting text saying "they are asking for photos of that morning, you have some, it may help the investigation" so here we are. I really hope it helps you guys somehow.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Love ...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

El amor ...Todas las cosas las soporta, todas las cree, todas las espera, todas las aguanta. El amor nunca falla.- 1 Corintios 13:4-8

On Wednesday, August 10, 2016 9:42 AM, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Hello [REDACTED],

I work with the National Transportation Safety Board and I found the pictures you submitted with a short narrative in regards to the balloon accident in Texas on July 30, 2016. I am simply emailing to confirm the date, time, and approximate location you took these pictures and see if there was any other information you could provide about that day.

Please feel free to email me back or call my cell, [REDACTED] I will be out of the office tomorrow
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE - THIS E-MAIL TRANSMISSION MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED, CONFIDENTIAL, PROPRIETARY, SUBJECT TO COPYRIGHT, AND/OR EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW. IT IS FOR THE USE OF INTENDED RECIPIENTS ONLY. If you are not an intended recipient of this message, please notify the original sender immediately by forwarding what you received and then delete all copies of the correspondence and attachments from your computer system. Any use, distribution, or disclosure of this message by unintended recipients is not authorized and may be unlawful.