



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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Meteorological Observations from Video: By Paul Suffern, NTSB Meteorologist
Date & Time: August 3, 2012
NTSB Accident Number: ERA12LA231

Fitz Balloon Jump March 2012 for ERA12LA231 Meteorological Observations from video

- At 0:06, convective clouds in the background behind the balloon.
- At 0:21, towering cumulus and cumulonimbus clouds in the background behind the balloon.
- At 0:26, towering cumulus and cumulonimbus clouds closer to the balloon in the background.
- At 0:32 to 1:02, balloon rises straight towards towering cumulus clouds.
- At 1:15, towering cumulus and cumulonimbus clouds on left side of screen closer to the balloon. Cirrus clouds from cumulonimbus clouds directly above the balloon.
- At 1:48, base of towering cumulus and cumulonimbus clouds (gray clouds just above the tree line) closer to the balloon.
- At 2:06, virga/rain shaft below towering cumulus and cumulonimbus clouds in the background behind balloon.
- At 2:13, shelf cloud (on upper left side of the image) below the rest of the base of the towering cumulus and cumulonimbus clouds with the virga/rain shaft still there.
- At 2:33, shelf cloud (on center portion of the image) is more defined and is closer to the balloon with the virga/rain shaft still there.
- At 2:43, shelf cloud is closer to the balloon with the virga/rain shaft still there. The balloon is now approaching the cloud base.
- At 4:00, balloon begins to enter into the clouds.
- At 4:16, balloon disappears into clouds as parachutist descends.

- At 4:23, shelf cloud (upper left portion of the image) is closer to the parachutist's location than when they were ascending in the balloon. Gray clouds/mist near the ground is a possible rain shaft/rain foot print.
- At 4:56, well defined cloud base.
- At 5:23, rain shaft below cloud base on right side of image.
- At 6:12, ragged cloud base of stratocumulus and cumulus clouds at several different levels.
- At 6:22, virga and rain shafts below cloud bases behind the parachutist.
- At 7:37, more virga and rain shafts below cloud bases in the direction the parachutist is facing.