



## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

**Stephen R. Stein**  
**Investigative Assistant**  
**Eastern Region Aviation**

---

### **General Observations from Internet Video of March 16, 2012 Accident Flight**

**Date: October 4, 2012**

**NTSB Accident Number: ERA12LA231**

---

#### **Narrative:**

Video footage taken by one or more parachutists during the balloon's ascent on the accident flight was published on Youtube on April 30, 2012. The video provided altitude updates in subtitles, captured audio of the pilot's conversation with his ground crew, and provided visual evidence of the developing storm as the balloon entered the base of the clouds. Below are still shots excerpted from the Youtube video.



**02:13 into video:** Balloon ascending with eight people onboard, seven parachutists and one pilot. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vd5VLWixBAE>)

Image Weather Observation: Shelf cloud (on upper left side of the image) below the rest of the base of the towering cumulus and cumulonimbus clouds with virga/rain shaft still there. – Paul Suffern, NTSB Meteorologist.



**02:33 into video:** Balloon continues to ascend. Eight people onboard.  
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vd5VLWixBAE>)



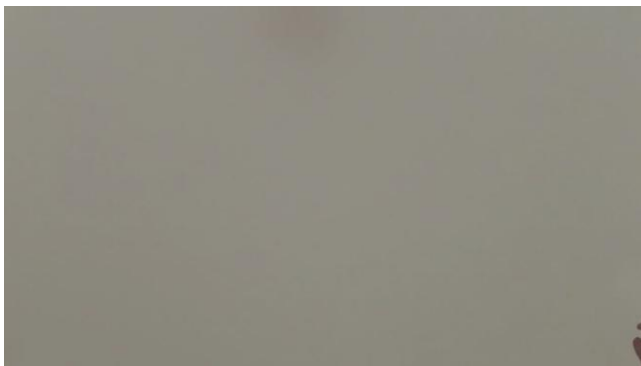
**02:43 into video:** Shelf cloud is closer to the balloon with the virga/rain shaft still there. The balloon is now approaching the cloud base. – Paul Suffern, NTSB Meteorologist.  
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vd5VLWixBAE>)



**04:05 into video:** Balloon continues to ascend and enters into cloud. Five people onboard, four parachutists, one pilot. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vd5VLWixBAE>)



**04:14 into video:** Two parachutists exit balloon from within cloud.  
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vd5VLWIXBAE>)



**04:50 into video:** Last two parachutists exit balloon from within cloud. Note obscured visual of balloon at top of image. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vd5VLWIXBAE>)