



Memorandum for Record

**Fabian Salazar
Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Western Pacific Region**

**NTSB Accident Number: WPR20CA050
Aircraft Registration & Make/Model: N2224H / HEAD Balloon
Accident Location: Las Cruces, NM
Accident Date: December 14, 2019**

**From an email sent by Mr. Walter Hawkins
Pilot**

Howdy Fabian,

The Adams burners have a history of doing that. In fact it is one of the first things I was told when I started training with my balloon in 2006. They are referred to as "flame outs". I have always had a striker attached to a lanyard hanging from my burner ring for immediate use. It is something that I can normally hear coming and release the blast valve before the burner flames out. I now have a hand torch, that has a piezo lighter, attached to one of my uprights as opposed to the striker, for relights. I have experienced flame outs many times, mostly during my pilot training. I have never had an issue relighting that burner until that day.

I hope that helps. I am currently at work and will be again tomorrow. I will try to keep my eye on my personal email tomorrow in case you have any follow up questions.

v/r,

Walter