



SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Mark L. Overman, Sheriff

PRESS RELEASE

Hot Air Balloon lands in power lines

A hot air balloon participating in the Old West Balloon Fest landed in power lines northeast of Morrill, Nebraska at approximately 8:30 a.m on Sunday, September 4, 2016. There were no injuries and no fire.

The balloon was occupied by pilot/owner Royce Clapp, age 55, of McCook, Nebraska, and two passengers. Mr. Clapp reported that his balloon suffered minor damage.

The incident took place on the south side of County Road A, between County Roads 10 and 11, in power lines owned by the Village of Morrill. The location is approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the east city limits of Morrill, Nebraska. The balloon launched earlier from the Mitchell airport, approximately 6.58 miles southeast of the location where it landed.

The Sheriff's Office, Morrill Fire Department, Village of Morrill Electrical Department, Roosevelt Public Power personnel, and officials with the Old West Balloon Fest responded to the scene. Village of Morrill electrical department personnel reported only minor damage to the power lines. The incident caused a power outage impacting four homes and a number of irrigation systems. Power was restored prior to 11 a.m. this morning.

The Sheriff's office interviewed all of the balloon occupants and numerous other witnesses. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is in charge of the investigation. We have notified them and will provide any reports or other assistance that they request.

Mark Overman - Scotts Bluff County Sheriff

Date: September 4, 2016

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