

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT FORM

CR # _____

Date 8/3/18 Page No. _____

Name GREG TAYLOR DOB [REDACTED]

Address, City, Zip [REDACTED] Dillon Co. SD

Mailing Address [REDACTED] Dillon, CO 80435 80435

Phone No [REDACTED]

IT WAS A NORMAL LANDING 6-8 MPH. THE BASKET
 HAD STOPPED ON THE GROUND AND WAS NO LONGER
 MOVING. THE BALLOON WAS COLLAPING AS NORMAL
 FOR THIS TYPE OF LANDING. AS THE BALLOON
 WAS COLLAPING IT PULLED THE BASKET DOWN
 TO THE GROUND. JOYCE WAS IN A SACK COMPART-
 MENT OF THE BALLOON. AS THE BASKET TIPPED
 OVER JOYCE FELL OUT AND ANOTHER PASSENGER
 FELL OUT ON TOP OF HER FORCING HER HEAD
 INTO THE GROUND CAUSING THE INJURY.

Pilot

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT FORM

CR # _____

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Page No. _____

Name Stephen Holcomb

DOB [REDACTED]

Address, City, Zip [REDACTED]

Mailing Address _____

Phone No. [REDACTED]

Our balloon came in to land. bumped twice tipping a little. Captain Eric pulled top out of balloon and when balloon came down it pulled the basket over. one of our passengers Linda lost her grip on rope handles and fell forward landing on top of her friend Joyce. We were able to help their friend Sandy from the basket. And everyone else got out of the basket. We could not get Joyce responsive and many first responders arrived quickly to help. They got her (Joyce) stabilized and brought chopper to take her to hospital. Linda who landed on Joyce hurt her right wrist. She was treated at scene and wanted her friend (sister I think) to take her for treatment.

chase vehicle



VOLUNTARY STATEMENT
(NOT UNDER ARREST)

I, Linda Reida, am not under arrest for, nor am I being detained for any criminal offenses concerning the events I am about to make known to CPU. Without being accused of or questioned about any criminal offenses regarding the facts I am about to state, I volunteer the following information of my own free will, for whatever purposes it may serve.

Name Linda Reida
Address [Redacted] Iowa
City Chariton State Iowa Zip 50049
City [Redacted] State [Redacted] Zip 65
Phone _____ Date of Birth _____ Age _____

- Complaint
- Witness
- Unsafe Condition
- Other _____

The baloon hit the ground, the baloon bumped up, touched down again, the baloon layed forward, straighten do up again. The pilot announced that he would lay the baloon down. As this happened, I flew out out the top of Joyce which fell with me. I hit the ground with right side Joyce was laying on my right side out of reach but I couldn't move due to shoulder pain and I hadn't had my cane in reach.

I have read each page of this statement consisting of _____ page(s), each page of which bears my signature, and corrections, if any, bear my initials, and I certify that the facts contained herein are true and correct.

Dated at 8/3/2012 ^{10:14 AM} PM, this 3rd day of August, 20 12.

Witness [Redacted] Park Ranger #5892

Witness _____

Signature of person giving voluntary statement [Redacted]

Case Report # _____
Summons & Complaint # _____
Penalty Assessment # _____

Park Area Eleven Mile State Park

Page # _____ of _____



VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

(NOT UNDER ARREST)

I, Lisa Finkler, am not under arrest for, nor am I being detained for any criminal offenses concerning the events I am about to make known to... Without being accused of or questioned about any criminal offenses regarding the facts I am about to state, I volunteer the following information of my own free will, for whatever purposes it may serve.

Name: Lisa Finkler
Address: [Redacted]
City: Boca, State: NE, Zip: 08430
Phone: [Redacted], Date of Birth: [Redacted], Age: 42

- Complaint
Witness (checked)
Unsafe Condition
Other

We arrived at 6:45 and watched the balloons be blown up. We took off and the flight was very smooth and uneventful. The pilot & assistant were very attentive to the wind conditions & other things going on around. Prior to landing they explained the landing process well, telling us what direction to face, to make sure the larger person was in front, to make sure you hold on in two places to the ropes & to bend down & bend your knees. They also warned us that the landing would be rougher than we thought it would be. When we landed the basket bounced a couple times & they warned us the basket would tip over. When the basket tipped we were down low but tipped forward & but did not fall out. The couple in front of us hit the ground, but we were holding onto the bars & climbed out above them. I'm not sure what happened to the ladies that got hurt but when I looked over it appeared that two of them fell out & one landed on the other. The lady that was hurt the worst seemed to have trouble breathing & we helped the other people get out.

I have read each page of this statement consisting of 1 page(s), each page of which bears my signature, and corrections, if any, bear my initials, and I certify that the facts contained herein are true and correct.

Dated at 10:30 AM, this 3rd day of August, 2018.

Witness: [Redacted]

Witness: Lisa Finkler

Signature of person giving voluntary statement

Case Report #
Summons & Complaint #
Penalty Assessment #

Park Area

Page # of

COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE



VOLUNTARY STATEMENT (NOT UNDER ARREST)

I, Jason Schlenker, am not under arrest for, nor am I being detained for any criminal offenses concerning the events I am about to make known to... Without being accused of or questioned about any criminal offenses regarding the facts I am about to state, I volunteer the following information of my own free will, for whatever purposes it may serve.

Name: Jason Schlenker
Address: Firestone CO 80504
City: Firestone State: CO Zip: 80504
Phone: [redacted] Date of Birth: [redacted] Age: 40

- Complaint
Witness
Unsafe Condition
Other

On 08-03-18 at approx. 0630 I arrived at arranged location for scheduled balloon ride and no issues or concerns were observed during take-off. The ride went as planned and both pilots Eric & Greg gave constant instructions during the entire flight.

As we descended for landing both Eric & Greg repeatedly gave instructions about what to be prepared for. We were all told to hold onto two straps, kneel low and brace against the wall of the basket that will be resting against the ground. Initial contact was smooth and basket came to rest level. As the balloon was deflating it briefly came off the ground then settled level again. The basket was on the ground as balloon continued to deflate and as it fell to the ground Eric and Greg continually gave instructions and prepared us as best they could. The basket tipped on it's side as Eric & Greg said it would. As it came to rest on it's side, passenger Linda fell from her area over the top of passenger Joyce dragging Joyce from the basket. It appeared Linda landed on top of Joyce as they both fell out. Joyce was initially responsive, but her condition changed quickly and breathing became labored and agonal. As her breathing deteriorated, I could not find a pulse. Cont'd =

I have read each page of this statement consisting of ___ page(s), each page of which bears my signature, and corrections, if any, bear my initials, and I certify that the facts contained herein are true and correct.

Dated at 10:37 AM, this 3rd day of August, 2018.

Witness _____

Witness _____

[redacted signature]
Signature of person giving voluntary statement

Case Report #
Summons & Complaint #
Penalty Assessment #

Park Area
Page # 1 of 2



VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

(NOT UNDER ARREST)

I, Jason Schleuter, am not under arrest for, nor am I being detained for any criminal offenses concerning the events I am about to make known to. Without being accused of or questioned about any criminal offenses regarding the facts I am about to state, I volunteer the following information of my own free will, for whatever purposes it may serve.

Name: see page 1
Address:
City: State: Zip:
Phone: Date of Birth: Age:

- Complaint
Witness
Unsafe Condition
Other

Continuation: I immediately began CPR and gave approximately 12 sets of 30 compressions + 2 breaths until my wife Heather took over compressions and I took over breathes. We continued with another 12-15 sets of compressions and breathes. During this 30 to 45 minute process we were able to maintain a pulse with continued labored breathing. This process continued until paramedics arrived and took over. Paramedics continued CPR until flight for life arrived and transported Joyce to a local hospital.

This concludes my involvement.

I have read each page of this statement consisting of page(s), each page of which bears my signature, and corrections, if any, bear my initials, and I certify that the facts contained herein are true and correct.

Dated at 10:37 AM, this 3rd day of August, 2018.

Witness

Witness

Signature of person giving voluntary statement

Case Report #
Summons & Complaint #
Penalty Assessment #

Park Area

Page # 2 of 2



VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

(NOT UNDER ARREST)

I, Heather Schlenker, am not under arrest for, nor am I being detained for any criminal offenses concerning the events I am about to make known to... Without being accused of or questioned about any criminal offenses regarding the facts I am about to state, I volunteer the following information of my own free will, for whatever purposes it may serve.

Name Heather Schlenker

Complaint

Address [Redacted]

Witness

City Firestone CO

Unsafe Condition

Zip 80504

Other

Phone [Redacted] Date of Birth [Redacted] Age 34

On Aug 3, 2018, at approx. 0920 hrs, I arrived at the take-off site for the Colorado Balloon Rides. The balloon took off as expected & the float was very smooth & uneventful. Prior to getting near the landing site, the pilots (Erick & Greg) went over the positioning that we as passengers needed to be in. They re-iterated numerous times that we needed to be in a secure & low position with our knees slightly bent & that we needed to hold onto our handles, maintain a lower position in the basket & to lean forward towards the front. The basket bounced off the ground twice during the landing & came to a rest. As the basket was resting the balloon came down & the basket tipped forward. I was prepared for this as the pilots gave us a heads-up & kept re-iterating where we needed to be in the basket & what we needed to do. Once the basket tipped forward, the lady in the pod behind us, Linda, appeared to fall out of the basket & pulled Joyce out with her. Linda appeared to be on top of Joyce & then rolled to the left. Due to the positioning of Joyce, in my training & experience as a Crime Scene Investigator, I knew that she was injured. My husband & I exited the basket & tried to assess Joyce & Linda. Linda was responsive & able to sit up. Linda had contusions to her face & an injury to her wrist. Joyce had some response when asked if she could feel us touching her, which she made a notion that she could not feel touch to her legs, arms, or hands. Joyce's condition started to rapidly worsen. She stopped

I have read each page of this statement consisting of 2 page(s), each page of which bears my signature, and corrections, if any, bear my initials, and I certify that the facts contained herein are true and correct.

Dated at 1032 AM, this 3rd day of August, 2018.

Witness

Witness

Signature of person giving voluntary statement [Redacted]

Case Report #
Summons & Complaint #
Penalty Assessment #

Park Area

Page # 1 of 2

COLORADO STATE PARKS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT (NOT UNDER ARREST)

I, Heather Schlenker, am not under arrest for, nor am I being detained for any criminal offenses concerning the events I am about to make known to _____. Without being accused of or questioned about any criminal offenses regarding the facts I am about to state, I volunteer the following information of my own free will, for whatever purposes it may serve.

Name Heather Schlenker
Address _____
City Firestone CO Zip 80504
Phone _____ Date of Birth _____ Age 34

- Complaint
- Witness
- Unsafe Condition
- Other _____

Responding to her pulse decreased, weakened & eventually stopped. CPR was started by my husband with breaths done by Erick. Eventually, I took over compressions with my husband Jason doing breaths. We continued this until the AED was placed by the volunteer fire Dept. I then stepped away & let the fire personnel & paramedics take over. Then, Flight for Life arrived & transported Joyce.

I have read each page of this statement consisting of 2 page(s), each page of which bears my signature, and corrections, if any, bear my initials, and I certify that the facts contained herein are true and correct.

Dated at 1032 ^{AM} PM, this 3rd day of August, 20 18.

Witness _____

Witness _____

Signature of person giving voluntary statement _____

Case Report # _____
Summons & Complaint # _____
Penalty Assessment # _____

Park Area _____



VOLUNTARY STATEMENT
(NOT UNDER ARREST)

I, Sandra Simonson, am not under arrest for, nor am I being detained for any criminal offenses concerning the events I am about to make known to _____. Without being accused of or questioned about any criminal offenses regarding the facts I am about to state, I volunteer the following information of my own free will, for whatever purposes it may serve.

Name Sandra Simonson
Address _____
City Vincent IA State IA Zip 50594
Phone _____ Date of Birth _____ Age 64

- Complaint
- Witness
- Unsafe Condition
- Other _____

Landing was instructed to hold on + bend knees and face the front. We all did as instructed (in my basket) But was very very buff and Linda + Joyce fell out. Joyce head first and Linda landed on top of her. Joyce was out
Roll

I have read each page of this statement consisting of _____ page(s), each page of which bears my signature, and corrections, if any, bear my initials, and I certify that the facts contained herein are true and correct.

Dated at 10:10 ^{AM} PM, this 3rd day of August, 2018.

Witness [Redacted] Park Ranger #15899

Witness _____

[Redacted Signature]
Signature of person giving voluntary statement

Case Report # _____
Summons & Complaint # _____
Penalty Assessment # _____

Park Area _____

Page # _____ of _____



VOLUNTARY STATEMENT (NOT UNDER ARREST)

I, Russell Riggan, am not under arrest for, nor am I being detained for any criminal offenses concerning the events I am about to make known to... Without being accused of or questioned about any criminal offenses regarding the facts I am about to state, I volunteer the following information of my own free will, for whatever purposes it may serve.

Russell Riggan

[Redacted Address]

Dallas TX 75287

[Redacted Phone] 57

Phone Date of Birth Age

Complaint

Witness

Unsafe Condition

Other

BALLOON RIDE ON AUG. 3, 2018 THROUGH COLORADO AIR BALLOON RIDES CREW PREPARED US FOR LANDING. BOUNCED 3 TIMES, BALLOON CANOPY COLLAPSED & PUT BASKET ON ITS SIDE. I STAYED IN BASKET, BUT HIT BRUNO HALL'S (R) SHOULDER IS SORE, NOSE IS SORE. GAME WARDENS FIRST ON SCENE. ANOTHER PASSENGER WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED WHEN SHE WAS PINNED BETWEEN TWO OTHER PASSENGERS. GAME WARDENS FIRST TO RESPOND.

I have read each page of this statement consisting of 1 page(s), each page of which bears my signature, and corrections, if any, bear my initials, and I certify that the facts contained herein are true and correct.

Dated at 1015 AM PM, this 3 day of August, 2018.

Witness [Redacted] Park Ranger #5899 [Signature]

Witness [Redacted]

Signature of person giving voluntary statement

Case Report # Summons & Complaint # Penalty Assessment #

Park Area

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VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

(NOT UNDER ARREST)

I, Ava Lynne Riggan, am not under arrest for, nor am I being detained for any criminal offenses concerning the events I am about to make known to _____. Without being accused of or questioned about any criminal offenses regarding the facts I am about to state, I volunteer the following information of my own free will, for whatever purposes it may serve.

Name Ava Lynne Riggan Complaint

Address _____ Witness

City Dallas State TX Zip 75287 Unsafe Condition

Phone _____ Date of Birth _____ Age 60 Other _____

Ballon landing was rough. I had bounce and then over on it's side, which ~~landed~~ laid basket flat on it's front. I was cushioned by my husband. Passenger Joyce was unresponsive. I did not witness her landing.

I have read each page of this statement consisting of 1 page(s), each page of which bears my signature, and corrections, if any, bear my initials, and I certify that the facts contained herein are true and correct.

Dated at 10:12 ^{AM} PM, this 3rd day of August, 20 18.

Witness [Redacted] Barb Cooper #5879

Witness _____ Signature of person giving voluntary statement _____

Case Report # _____
Summons & Complaint # _____
Penalty Assessment # _____

Park Area _____

Page # _____ of _____

Lindberg Joshua

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 10:39 AM
To: Lindberg Joshua
Subject: Fw: Balloon Accident

From: Jason Schlenker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 4:56 PM
To: Proud, Bret (FAA)
Subject: Re: Balloon Accident

Bret,
It's really no problem at all I know how important it is to get the facts. To answer your question yes they told us to prepare ourselves by holding onto two points of contact which were ropes in this case and Eric and Greg pointed them out long before the landing. They also said to bend our knees just in case we impacted harder than usual (which we did not) and to get low in the basket and lean against the wall that would be tipping towards the ground. Yes they did indicate which wall to lean against and that the basket would tip in the direction the balloon deflates in and it was pretty clear what direction the wind was blowing and how it would carry the balloon as well as what direction the basket would tip. Eric and Greg even told us to get ready as the basket began to slowly tip. Eric and Greg went over these preparations for quite awhile prior to landing so I felt comfortable with what was going to happen and felt like I knew what to expect. In all honesty the landing of the basket itself, prior to deflating the balloon was better than I anticipated and I felt like I was informed about what would happen when the balloon deflated.

Hopefully that answers your question and I apologize for the delay in getting back to you it has been a hectic couple of weeks. If you need any further clarification please don't hesitate to ask.

Jason

Sent using my thumbs

On Aug 9, 2018, at 8:07 AM, "[REDACTED]" > wrote:

Sgt. Schlenker, Thank you for assisting us with this investigation. I have a question about the statement you gave the Parks and Wildlife Officer. In the statement you said that they "gave instructions about what to be prepared for". How did they prepare you? What did they say? You said they told you to "hold on to two straps, kneel low and brace against the wall of the basket that will be resting against the ground". Did they specify which direction that would be?

Bret Proud
Aviation Safety Inspector
Denver Flight Standards District Office