

Rayner Brian

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 2:23 PM
To: Rayner Brian
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ERA12LA231 Fitzgerald, GA Balloon Accident

Conducted inspection of Balloon, Log Book, and Flight Log on April 10, 2012. Inspection revealed the following:

ENVELOPE Model: Firefly F8 SN: F8-2018

Two tears approximately 110 ft. long down the vertical load tapes (seam) six panels apart from one another. The tears along the load tapes were fabric tears approx 1/2 inch from the stitching.
There were two large tears across the top horizontal load tape around the deflation port approx 12 feet long. Once again, the stitching held, but the fabric tore away just after the stitching.
The deflation valve was intact. Deflation line was intact.
There were a few small puncture holes what I believe to be from contact with trees.
There was one small tear approx two feet at the mouth horizontal seam.
Several lines had the outer sheath burned away, but the line was intact with no evidence of fraying or wear.
No evidence of burns on the skirt

BASKET Model: 4991 SN: 391

Floor cracked diagonally across its full diameter
Pretty much intact except for the overhead frames breaking loose from the basket attachment points two places of four

BURNER Model: F1 SN: 329

One of the three mid section supports bent in approx 2 inches. Several dents in outer casing from downward compression.

MAINTENANCE

Last annual inspection performed March 10, 2011 Total Time 106.0 hours
Total time on Balloon last entry March 10, 2012 was 114.0 hours

PILOT

Commercial Lighter-than-air-balloon rating

Certificate No. [REDACTED]

Last medical 03/04/1997

Total hours 1108

Hours in last year 19

Hours in last 90 days 9

Last Flight Review 03/19/2011

Note: Pilot had both knees replaced last year. Did not fly from 4/30/2011 to 10/08/2011

I have pictures on file.

Released balloon on FAA Form 8020-2 to Michael Barnes [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED]

Hope this helps

Mike Denaro
Aviation Safety Inspector
Atlanta Flight Standards
SO-11
[REDACTED]