



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

FAA Inspector Statement

Lynn Spencer
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: February 18, 2022

Conversation with: FAA Inspector Mark McLeroy, Louisville FSDO

NTSB Accident Number: ERA22LA129

Narrative:

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with the individual named above:

Inspector McLeroy called me to discuss this accident. He stated that the student pilot/pilot applicant called in to report the event, rather than the DPE, Mr. Torgerson. He stated that Mr. Torgerson sent notice to his DPE Manager at the FAA saying that he had an incident, but it did not come under the reporting requirements.

We discussed the NTSB's determination as to substantial damage. I explained that damage to any of the horizontal or vertical load tapes is considered substantial damage unless expressly excluded by the approved Instructions for Continued Airworthiness for the balloon, and that our aerospace engineer had reviewed the Lindstrand Maintenance Manual and that no damage is allowed to the load tapes. In this accident, the heat and burning damage to the load tapes would adversely affect the structural strength of the balloon and requires replacement, therefore, we considered this substantial damage.

Inspector McLeroy stated that his office had already been looking into this event and I let them know that as the FAA party coordinator, he would be prevented by the party system from taking enforcement action based on information he comes by as a result of the NTSB investigation; however, other inspectors at FAA can continue their investigation into whatever issues of concern they may have.