



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	WARSAW, Indiana	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CHI92LA016
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	October 18, 1991, 18:20 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N357OK
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Aerostar RX-8	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	None
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 3 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

A COMMERCIAL PILOT BEGAN A BALLOON FLIGHT IN LATE AFTERNOON AND ATTEMPTED LANDING AT SUNSET. TWO ATTEMPTED LANDINGS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL WHEN THE CHASE CREW COULD NOT CATCH THE GROUND LINES IN THE WIND DRIFT. THE BALLOON REMAINED AIRBORNE AFTER DARK. THE PILOT STATED HE COULD NOT READ INSTRUMENTS NOR MAKE OUT OBSTACLES FOR LANDING FOR LACK OF AVAILABLE LIGHT. HE LATER FOUND A FIELD, MADE A RAPID DESCENT AND LANDED HARD.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: PILOT'S DELAYED INFLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION TO LAND.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: HARD LANDING  
Phase of Operation: LANDING

### Findings

1. LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
2. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - DELAYED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH WIND
4. DESCENT - INTENTIONAL - PILOT IN COMMAND



## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	63, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Balloon	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	None None	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	110 hours (Total, all aircraft), 110 hours (Total, this make and model), 85 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Aerostar	<b>Registration:</b>	N357OK
<b>Model/Series:</b>	RX-8 RX-8	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Balloon
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	RX8-3049
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>		<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	March 1, 1991 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1650 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	47 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	0 Unknown
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	105 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	HENRY J. & MARCILLE CRIPE	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>	HENRY J. & MARCILLE CRIPE	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Night/dark
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	SBN ,799 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	34 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	17:51 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	326°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 800 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	6 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Overcast / 5500 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	12 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	340°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	6°C / 5°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	Light - None - Rain		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	WATERFORD , IN (NONE)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	16:50 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	WARSAW MUNI ASW	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Dirt
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	847 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Vegetation;Wet
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Full stop

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	None
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 2 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 3 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	41.229053,-85.849975(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Vallaster, John
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	DONALD H HALES; SOUTH BEND , IN
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	December 4, 1992
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=15340">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=15340</a>

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