



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	COLORADO SPRING, Colorado	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN87LA232
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	September 5, 1987, 08:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N32201
<b>Aircraft:</b>	National Balloon 858	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	3 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation		

## Analysis

THE COMMERCIAL BALLOON PLT WAS COMPETING IN A BALLOON RACE. WHILE LANDING, WITH THE BASKET ON THE GROUND, THE BALLOON DRIFTED INTO POWER LINES. A LARGE HOLE WAS BURNED IN THE ENVELOPE, AND THE BASKET WAS DAMAGED. THE PLT AND TWO PASSENGERS JUMPED FROM THE BASKET JUST PRIOR TO WIRE CONTACT AND WERE NOT INJURED.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

### Findings

Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: LANDING

#### Findings

1. (F) OBJECT - WIRE, TRANSMISSION
  2. (C) UNSUITABLE TERRAIN OR TAKEOFF/LANDING/TAXI AREA - SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: FIRE  
Phase of Operation: LANDING



## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	42, 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>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	230 hours (Total, all aircraft), 230 hours (Total, this make and model), 210 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	National Balloon	<b>Registration:</b>	N32201
<b>Model/Series:</b>	858 858	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Balloon
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	111
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Hull	<b>Seats:</b>	
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	September 1, 1987 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	600 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	1 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	0 Unknown
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	112 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	UNKNOWN
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	UNKNOWN
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	ROBERT H PETZINGER	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>	ROBERT H. PETZINGER	<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>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered	<b>Visibility</b>	
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	5 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	135°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	13°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>		<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	07:30 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	TRSA

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Grass/turf
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Valley/terrain following

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	On-ground
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	3 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	38.82069,-104.700569(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Collins, Robert
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	JOE JORDAN; AURORA , CO
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	October 7, 1988
<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=17305">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=17305</a>

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