



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	LOUISVILLE, Colorado	Accident Number:	DEN89LA185
Date & Time:	August 6, 1989, 07:55 Local	Registration:	N74191
Aircraft:	BALLOON WORKS FIREFLY 8B	Aircraft Damage:	None
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor, 2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PLT REPORTED THAT THE WIND WAS CALM WHEN HE LAUNCHED BUT BECAME STRONG AND GUSTY DURING THE ONE HR FLT. HE SAID HE LANDED ON THE TOP OF A MESA WITH THE WIND ESTIMATED TO BE 25 KTS, WITH GUSTS TO 35 KTS. DURING THE LANDING THE PASSENGERS WERE JOSTLED AROUND AND ONE PASSENGER RECEIVED A SERIOUS INJURY.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S FAILURE TO ADEQUATELY EVALUATE THE WEATHER PRIOR TO TAKEOFF. HIGH WINDS DEVELOPED DURING THE BALLOON FLIGHT WHICH RESULTED IN A ROUGH LANDING.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH WIND
2. (C) WEATHER EVALUATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: HARD LANDING
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

3. BALLOON EQUIPMENT, BASKET - DISTORTED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	34, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Balloon	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	391 hours (Total, all aircraft), 20 hours (Total, this make and model), 379 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 24 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BALLOON WORKS	Registration:	N74191
Model/Series:	FIREFLY 8B FIREFLY 8B	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	F8B037
Landing Gear Type:	Hull	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	March 20, 1989 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1660 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	49 Hrs	Engines:	0 Unknown
Airframe Total Time:	363 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	VANDE HOEF, EDWARD L.	Rated Power:	
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	50 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	25 knots / 35 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	360°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	21°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	(NONE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	(NONE)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	07:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	0 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	0 ft / 0 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	None
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor, 1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor, 2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	39.959411,-105.139556(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Johnson, Robert
Additional Participating Persons:	DAVID F GONZALES; DENVER , CO
Original Publish Date:	August 2, 1990
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=17758

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