



# **Aviation Investigation Final Report**

Location: ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico Accident Number: DEN90LA003

Date & Time: October 8, 1989, 08:00 Local Registration: N1059S

Aircraft: Adams A55 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

**Defining Event:** 3 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

### **Analysis**

THE PILOT REPORTED THAT DURING A LANDING ATTEMPT DURING A BALLOON FIESTA, THE FLIGHT ENCOUNTERED A WIND SHEAR AND SNAGGED A TREE. AFTER BREAKING FREE OF THE TREE, THE WIND PUSHED THE BALLOON INTO POWERLINES. THE BASKET SEVERED THE TOP LINE AND ELECTRICAL ARCING WAS EVERYWHERE, SEVERING FOUR CABLES.

### **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 COMPENSATE FOR THE EXISTING WIND CONDITIONS. CONTRIBUTING FACTOR(S) WAS: TREES AND POWER LINES IN THE LANDING AREA.

### **Findings**

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

#### **Findings**

- 1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION WINDSHEAR
- 2. (C) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS INADEQUATE PILOT IN COMMAND
- 3. (F) OBJECT TREE(S)
- 4. (F) OBJECT WIRE, TRANSMISSION

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# **Factual Information**

#### **Pilot Information**

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	37,Female
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:	Unknown Unknown	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	368 hours (Total, all aircraft), 368 hours (Total, this make and model), 361 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## **Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information**

Aircraft Make:	Adams	Registration:	N1059S
Model/Series:	A55 A55	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	046
Landing Gear Type:	Hull	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	April 15, 1989 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	17 Hrs	Engines:	0 Unknown
Airframe Total Time:	192 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	UNKNOWN	Rated Power:	
Operator:	LINDA R. GUY	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

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## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Dawn
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	Visibility	7 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	180°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	4°C / -18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipit	ation	
Departure Point:	(NONE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	(NONE)	Type of Clearance:	
Departure Time:	07:10 Local	Type of Airspace:	

## **Airport Information**

Airport:	NONE	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

## **Wreckage and Impact Information**

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 None	Latitude, Longitude:	35.17971,-106.590789(est)

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#### **Administrative Information**

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Collins, Robert

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date: September 30, 1991

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: Class

Note:

Investigation Docket: https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=17854

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, "accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person" (Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB's statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 United States Code section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 United States Code section 1154(b) is available here.

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