



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	SANTA FE, New Mexico	Accident Number:	FTW95LA267
Date & Time:	July 4, 1995, 07:45 Local	Registration:	N5402V
Aircraft:	Thunder and Colt AX7-77	Aircraft Damage:	None
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious, 2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT WAS ATTEMPTING A HIGH WIND LANDING WITH 2 PASSENGERS ONBOARD WHEN THE BASKET STRUCK A TREE STUMP AND DUMPED THE PILOT OUT OF THE BASKET. THE BALLOON LIFTED OFF WITH THE 2 PASSENGERS STILL ONBOARD, STRIKING THE ROOF OF A HOUSE. THE GROUND CREW RADIOED THE PASSENGERS TO PULL THE CANOPY LANYARD, THE PASSENGERS FOLLOWED THEIR INSTRUCTIONS AND THE BALLOON LANDED WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S IMPROPER PLANNING FOR THE HIGH WIND LANDING. FACTORS WERE THE UNFAVORABLE WINDS AND THE TREE STUMP.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

1. (C) PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - UNFAVORABLE WIND
3. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)
4. OBJECT - RESIDENCE

Factual Information

On July 4, 1995, at 0745 mountain daylight time, a Thunder AX7-77, N5402V, was undamaged while landing near Santa Fe, New Mexico. The commercial pilot was seriously injured and the two passengers were not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the local balloon flight.

During interviews, conducted by a Federal Aviation Administration inspector, the pilot and the ground crew stated that the pilot was making a "high wind landing." The basket impacted a tree stump and tipped the basket over, dumping the pilot out of the basket. The balloon became airborne again with its two passengers and struck the roof of a residence. The ground crew instructed the passengers, by radio, to pull the crown rope and release the hot air. The balloon subsequently landed safely.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	60, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Balloon	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 28, 1995
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	4960 hours (Total, all aircraft), 123 hours (Total, this make and model), 4500 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Thunder and Colt	Registration:	N5402V
Model/Series:	AX7-77 AX7-77	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	N5402V
Landing Gear Type:		Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	August 25, 1994 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:	7 Hrs	Engines:	Unknown
Airframe Total Time:	33 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	JAMES J. MCBRIDE	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	60 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	15 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	320°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	07:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	None
Passenger Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	35.670829,-105.949943(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Ellis, Matthew
Additional Participating Persons:	WALTER P TIDMORE; ALBUQUERQUE , NM
Original Publish Date:	January 16, 1996
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=19474

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