



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico	Accident Number:	FTW97LA011
Date & Time:	October 5, 1996, 06:45 Local	Registration:	N47AV
Aircraft:	Avian Balloon SKYHAWK	Aircraft Damage:	None
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot, the balloon was on a 'dawn patrol' demonstration. The crew members were holding to the gondola just prior to breaking ground. As the balloon became airborne, a crew member's hand became caught on one of the rope handles normally used by passengers. She was lifted up to about 20 feet AGL. Someone on the ground said, 'jump,' and she released the handle. Before impacting the ground, she contacted the side of another balloon that was being inflated. The pilot stated that he was not aware that the crew member was in distress.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The ground crew member's failure keep clear from the gondola during take off. A factor was the pilot's failure to insure crew coordination during take off.

Findings

Occurrence #1: MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF

Findings

1. (F) CREW/GROUP COORDINATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) IMPROPER DECISION - GROUND PERSONNEL

Factual Information

On October 5, 1996, at 0645 mountain daylight time, a ground crew member for an Avian Balloon Skyhawk, N47AV, sustained serious injuries while tethering the balloon during take off. The pilot, the sole occupant, was not injured and the balloon was not damaged. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the Title 14 CFR Part 91 personal flight near Albuquerque, New Mexico. A flight plan was not filed.

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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	59, 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:	Unknown None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	576 hours (Total, all aircraft), 400 hours (Total, this make and model), 576 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Avian Balloon	Registration:	N47AV
Model/Series:	SKYHAWK SKYHAWK	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Special flight (Special)	Serial Number:	47
Landing Gear Type:		Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	March 11, 1996 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:	0 Hrs	Engines:	Unknown
Airframe Total Time:	405 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	HOWARD F. KENNEDY	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:	Dawn
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	15 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	360°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	10°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	06:45 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class E; Demo area

Airport Information

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

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	None
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Lemishko, Alexander
Additional Participating Persons:	GARY GOMEZ; ALBUQUERQUE , NM
Original Publish Date:	May 23, 1997
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=20087

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