



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	SHAWNEE, Kansas	<b>Accident Number:</b>	MKC85LA185
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	August 10, 1985, 20:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N40468
<b>Aircraft:</b>	BALLOON WORKS FIREFLY 7	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	None
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 3 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation		

## Analysis

THE COMMERCIAL BALLOON PLT WAS GIVING A RIDE TO THREE PAYING PASSENGERS. PLT STATED THAT DURING THE LANDING APCH HIGHER THAN NORMAL WINDS WERE PRESENT SO HE BRIEFED THE PASSENGERS TO LEAN AGAINST THE SIDE OF THE BASKET. HE STATED THAT HE PULLED THE DEFLATION LINE WHEN THE BASKET WAS 3 FT AGL. ONE PASSENGER GOT HER ARM UNDER THE SIDE OF THE BASKET AS IT WAS SKIDDING AND RECEIVED LACERATIONS. AFTER SHE WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL, SHE WAS FOUND TO HAVE TWO COMPRESSED VERTEBRAE.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

### Findings

Occurrence #1: HARD LANDING  
Phase of Operation: LANDING

#### Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH WIND
2. (C) PROPER DESCENT RATE - EXCEEDED - PILOT IN COMMAND



## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial; Private	<b>Age:</b>	Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<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 Unknown	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	534 hours (Total, this make and model)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	BALLOON WORKS	<b>Registration:</b>	N40468
<b>Model/Series:</b>	FIREFLY 7 FIREFLY 7	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Balloon
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	7902
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	July 18, 1985 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	900 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	7 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	0 Unknown
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	320 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	RAY M. DITIRRO	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>		<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>	Dusk
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>	20:15 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	8 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>	
<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>	19:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	0 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	0 ft / 0 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Full stop

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	None
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 2 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 3 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	39.019744,-94.709922(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Roth, Eugene
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	RANDOLPH ROBINSON; KANSAS CITY , MO
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	
<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=34007">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=34007</a>

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](#).