



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	FREEHOLD, New Jersey	<b>Accident Number:</b>	IAD98LA105
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	August 29, 1998, 19:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N9067F
<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

According to the pilot, he had set up to land the balloon in a large field, but the wind shifted so he decided to land in a smaller field. During the landing, one of the passengers lost his balance and fell onto another passenger who incurred an ankle injury. The pilot reported that he had briefed the passengers prior to touchdown.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The passenger's failure to secure himself during landing.

## Findings

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

### Findings

1. (C) MISCELLANEOUS - INADEQUATE - PASSENGER

## Factual Information

On August 29, 1998, at 1900 eastern daylight time, N9067F, a Balloon Works, Firefly 7, landed in a field near Freehold, New Jersey, and a passenger sustained serious injuries during the landing. The balloon was not damaged. The certificated commercial pilot and two other passengers were not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and a flight plan was not filed for the local flight that originated in the Monroe Township, New Jersey. The commercial sightseeing flight was conducted under 14 CFR Part 91.

According to the pilot, he had set up to land in a large field, but the wind shifted and he decided to land in a smaller field. During the landing, one of the passengers lost his balance and fell onto another passenger who incurred an ankle injury. The pilot reported that he had briefed the passengers prior to touchdown.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	43, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<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>	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	June 26, 1998
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	468 hours (Total, all aircraft), 295 hours (Total, this make and model), 23 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Balloon Works	<b>Registration:</b>	N9067F
<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>	F7-485
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>		<b>Seats:</b>	0
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	June 5, 1998 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1250 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	19 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	Unknown
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	344 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	
<b>ELT:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	KENNETH R LEOTA	<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>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	7 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	6 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	290°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	29°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	MONROE TOWNSHIP, NJ	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	18:15 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<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>	

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Drake, Beverley
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	RONALD KRANTZ; TETERBORO , NJ
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	September 7, 2000
<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=43859">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=43859</a>

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