



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	ALBERQUERQUE, New Mexico	Accident Number:	DEN99LA006
Date & Time:	October 8, 1998, 10:00 Local	Registration:	N36609
Aircraft:	Balloon Works FIREFLY-7	Aircraft Damage:	None
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious, 2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot, he was preparing to land in a small field with power lines upwind and downwind. He had instructed the passengers, the pilot's mother and a balloon ground crew member, how to brace themselves for a 'cold fast landing.' The pilot stated, upon landing, that as soon as they contacted the ground, he heard one of his passengers 'scream in pain.' Attempting to stop the balloon with the top pulled out, the balloon swung forward 6-8 ft. where it touched down a second time. After deflation of the balloon, he and one of his passengers exited the balloon, the other passenger was unable to exit due to two broken legs.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The passenger's failure to follow procedures/directives for a hard landing. A factor was the congested/confined landing area with power lines on both ends.

Findings

Occurrence #1: HARD LANDING
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

1. (C) PROCEDURES/DIRECTIVES - NOT FOLLOWED - PASSENGER
2. TERRAIN CONDITION - CONGESTED/CONFINED AREA

Factual Information

On October 8, 1998, approximately 1000 mountain daylight time, a Balloon Works Firefly-7 balloon, N36609, was not damaged during a hard landing near Albuquerque, New Mexico. The private pilot and one passenger were not injured; however, a second passenger received serious injuries. The balloon was being operated by the pilot under Title 14 CFR Part 91. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the local personal flight which originated from Kodak Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Park, Albuquerque, New Mexico, approximately 60 minutes before the accident. No flight plan had been filed.

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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	36, 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:	None None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	57 hours (Total, all aircraft), 54 hours (Total, this make and model), 27 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Balloon Works	Registration:	N36609
Model/Series:	FIREFLY-7 FIREFLY-7	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	F7-048
Landing Gear Type:		Seats:	0
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	August 7, 1998 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	10 Hrs	Engines:	Unknown
Airframe Total Time:	193 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	MARK C. OTTO	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:	ABQ	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	09:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	10°C / 2°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	FIESTA PARK , NM	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	00:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

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

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	None
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	35.060127,-106.620956(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Struhsaker, James
Additional Participating Persons:	BILL REISEN; ALBUQUERQUE , NM
Original Publish Date:	May 19, 1999
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=44155

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