



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Albuquerque, New Mexico	Accident Number:	FTW02LA011
Date & Time:	October 6, 2001, 09:30 Local	Registration:	N9524U
Aircraft:	Cameron 105	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Serious, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The balloon pilot was provided a detailed weather briefing prior to the flight which called for light and variable winds. Soon after departure, the winds increased from 4-6 knots to 6-8 knots, gusting to 15 knots. The pilot flew around waiting for winds to subside to no avail. The pilot was forced to land with the prevailing high winds when he started getting low on fuel.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: Ther pilot's delay to compensate for changing weather conditions in-flight. Contributing factors were the high winds and an inaccurate weather forecast.

Findings

Occurrence #1: HARD LANDING
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

1. (C) WEATHER EVALUATION - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) WEATHER FORECAST - INACCURATE - OTHER PERSON
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH WIND

Factual Information

On October 6, 2001, approximately 0930 mountain daylight time, a Cameron 105 hot-air balloon, N9524U, registered to and operated by the pilot, sustained minor damage during a hard landing while the pilot was attempting a high wind landing near Albuquerque, New Mexico. The private pilot was not injured while 2 of his passengers sustained serious injuries and one was uninjured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and a flight plan was not filed for the 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 personal flight. The local flight originated from Albuquerque at 0800.

The pilot was provided a detailed weather briefing at 0615. The forecast for the remaining of the morning called for light and variable winds. Soon after departure, the winds increased from 4-6 knots to 6-8 knots, gusting to 15 knots. The pilot flew around waiting for winds to subside to no avail. The pilot was forced to land with the prevailing high winds when he started getting low on fuel.

During the high wind landing, two of the 3 passengers sustained serious injuries.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	52, 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:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	February 28, 2000
Flight Time:	214 hours (Total, all aircraft), 214 hours (Total, this make and model), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cameron	Registration:	N9524U
Model/Series:	105	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	5611
Landing Gear Type:		Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	0
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	Donald L. Rose	Rated Power:	
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ABQ,5355 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	10:23 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots / 15 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	310°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.28 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C / 2°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Albuquerque, NM (ABQ)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Albuquerque, NM (ABQ)	Type of Clearance:	Unknown
Departure Time:	08:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Passenger Injuries:	2 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Serious, 1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	35.04,-106.609169

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Lemishko, Alexander
Additional Participating Persons: Pamara Bell; FAA; Albuquerque, NM

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Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=53636>

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