



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Aurora, Oregon	Accident Number:	SEA04CA109
Date & Time:	June 17, 2004, 07:15 Local	Registration:	N3097R
Aircraft:	Balloon Works Fire Fly 9	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Serious, 1 Minor, 4 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that after about one hour of flight he "...came down to the surface to set up for a landing." He stated the winds were greater than expected (estimated to be 10-12 MPH) and prepared for a high wind landing. The pilot stated that during the landing approach the basket "...impacted land and dragged approximately 30-40 yards before coming to a stop" on its side.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: Pilot's failure to compensate for wind conditions. Wind was a contributing factor.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - UNFAVORABLE WIND
2. (C) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

On June 17, 2004, about 0715 Pacific daylight time, a Balloon Works Fire Fly 9 balloon, N3097R, collided with terrain while landing near Aurora, Oregon. The balloon is registered to the pilot and was being operated under the provisions of Title 14, CFR Part 91, when the accident occurred. Of the seven people aboard (pilot plus 6 passengers), the certificated commercial pilot and one passenger sustained serious injuries, another passenger received minor injuries, and the remaining four passengers were not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed for the local flight. The flight originated at Tigard, Oregon, approximately 1 hour prior to the accident.

In a written statement provided to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the pilot reported that after about one hour of flight he "...came down to the surface to set up for a landing." He stated the winds were greater than expected (estimated to be 10-12 MPH) and prepared for a high wind landing. The pilot stated that during the landing approach the basket "...impacted land and dragged approximately 30-40 yards before coming to a stop" on its side.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	47, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Balloon	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	716 hours (Total, all aircraft), 0 hours (Total, this make and model), 18 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Balloon Works	Registration:	N3097R
Model/Series:	Fire Fly 9	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	F9-063
Landing Gear Type:	None	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	July 7, 2003 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:	39 Hrs	Engines:	0
Airframe Total Time:	287 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	Derek Hancock	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:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	10°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Tigard, OR	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Aurora , OR	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	06:15 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	AURORA STATE 3S2	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	Rough;Vegetation
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor, 4 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Serious, 1 Minor, 4 None	Latitude, Longitude:	45.266666,-122.816665

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hogenson, Dennis
Additional Participating Persons:	Tim D Moon
Original Publish Date:	September 29, 2004
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=59477

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