



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Rio Rancho, New Mexico	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN08LA006
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	October 9, 2007, 08:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N1024B
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cameron Balloons Z-105	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 3 Minor, 1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot was attempting to land in a large, open field when a gust of wind pushed the balloon down and sideways towards a house. The pilot activated both burners in an attempt to avoid hitting it. The balloon struck the house's parapet wall then the ground, ejecting two passengers. The balloon lifted back into the air, due to the weight loss. The pilot opened the emergency vent and the balloon hit the ground again, ejecting a third passenger. The winds were gusting to 35 mph or greater. The balloon traveled across a street and struck a second house, damaging its swamp cooler. The balloon came to rest on its side in the yard of the second house.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's inability to maintain aircraft control due to high winds resulting in the aircraft coming in contact with two houses.

### Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING

#### Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH WIND

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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

2. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT POSSIBLE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. OBJECT - RESIDENCE

## Factual Information

On October 9, 2007, approximately 0830 mountain daylight time, a Cameron Z-105, N1024B, registered to and operated by the pilot, was substantially damaged when it struck two houses and an arroyo while landing in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. The personal flight was being conducted under the provisions of Title 14 CFR Part 91 without a flight plan. The pilot was seriously injured, three passengers received minor injuries, and one passenger escaped injury. The local flight originated approximately 0715 from Albuquerque.

The balloon was participating in the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. According to the pilot, the passengers were given a landing briefing. She said the winds were calm on the surface and 8 mph or less during the 1-1/2 hour flight. She was attempting to land in a "very large open field" near Kim Street, about 1/2-mile west of Highway 528, in Rio Rancho. "An unexpected massive gust of wind pushed me down and sideways towards a house," she wrote. She activated both burners in an attempt to avoid hitting the house. The balloon struck the house's parapet wall, then hit the ground and two passengers were ejected. The balloon lifted back into the air, due to the weight loss, and the pilot opened the emergency vent. The balloon hit the ground again, ejecting a third passenger. The winds "were still very severe --- gusting to 35 mph or greater," the pilot wrote. The balloon traveled across a street and struck a second house, damaging its swamp cooler. The balloon came to rest on its side in the yard of the second house. A fourth passenger and the pilot crawled out, and the latter lost consciousness. The pilot had sustained multiple fractures, and was hospitalized for 6 days.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	41,Female
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	
<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 None	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	March 1, 2006
<b>Flight Time:</b>	50 hours (Total, all aircraft), 20 hours (Total, this make and model), 25 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Cameron Balloons	<b>Registration:</b>	N1024B
<b>Model/Series:</b>	Z-105	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Balloon
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	6371
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	None	<b>Seats:</b>	
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	August 1, 2007 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	850 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	123 Hrs as of last inspection	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	Roger L. & Kelly N. Baldwin	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>		<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	ABQ,5355 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	15 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	08:56 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	175°
<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>	4 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	300°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.38 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	12°C / -1°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Albuquerque, NM (NONE)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	(NONE)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	07:15 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	3 Minor, 1 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 3 Minor, 1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	35.27861,-106.625831

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Scott, Arnold
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Bruce Jeffcoat; FAA Flight Standards District Office; Albuquerque, NM
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	January 31, 2008
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=66907">https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=66907</a>

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