



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	CRESTWOOD, Kentucky	Accident Number:	ATL87LA207
Date & Time:	July 9, 1987, 08:42 Local	Registration:	N2897H
Aircraft:	Aerostar RX-7	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

THE BALLOON CONTACTED POWER LINES AS IT WAS BEGINNING TO CLIMB AFTER AN ABORTED LDG ATTEMPT. ELECTRICAL ARCING IGNITED THE PROPANE FUEL SUPPLY ON BOARD. THE SOLE-OCCUPANT STUDENT PLT JUMPED FROM THE BURNING BALLOON AND FELL APPROX 40 FT ONTO A FENCE. THE STUDENT PLT LATER REPORTED THAT SHE DIDN'T SEE THE POWER LINE UNTIL JUST BEFORE CONTACT. THE STUDENT PLT'S INSTRUCTOR WAS ON THE GROUND NEARBY AT THE TIME. HE REPORTED THAT HE DIDN'T WARN THE STUDENT OF THE WIRES BECAUSE HE THOUGHT SHE SAW THEM AND WAS GOING TO CLEAR THEM. THIS WAS THE STUDENT'S SECOND SUPERVISED SOLO FLT. SHE HAD APPROX 1 HR TOTAL PIC TIME.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ABORTED

Findings

1. (F) OBJECT - WIRE, TRANSMISSION
2. ABORTED LANDING - ATTEMPTED - PILOT IN COMMAND

3. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 4. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 5. (F) INSTRUCTIONS, WRITTEN/VERBAL - NOT ISSUED - FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR(ON GROUND)
 6. (C) CLEARANCE - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: FIRE

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ABORTED

Findings

7. (F) BALLOON EQUIPMENT - ARCING

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	32,Female
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:	
Flight Time:	14 hours (Total, all aircraft), 14 hours (Total, this make and model), 1 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Aerostar	Registration:	N2897H
Model/Series:	RX-7 RX-7	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	RX7-3069
Landing Gear Type:	Hull	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1480 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	40 Hrs	Engines:	Unknown
Airframe Total Time:	40 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	unknown
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	UNK
Registered Owner:	STUART CRAWFORD	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:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 6000 ft AGL	Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	200°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	29°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	LOUISVILLE , KY	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	07:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	0 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	0 ft / 0 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	In-flight
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	38.329708,-85.480407(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Strickland, Scott
Additional Participating Persons:	DAVID ARNOLD; LOUISVILLE , KY
Original Publish Date:	November 29, 1988
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=7480

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