



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Albuquerque, New Mexico	Accident Number:	CEN10CA017
Date & Time:	October 8, 2009, 08:18 Local	Registration:	N4502V
Aircraft:	Cameron Z77	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Defining Event:	Hard landing	Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Air race/show		

Analysis

After a morning balloon flight the pilot was making an approach to landing on a golf course. During a descent to treetop level the pilot reported the winds varied from 8 to 17 miles per hour. After descending below the tops of the trees the pilot reported a gust of 17 miles per hour with a “significant wind shift,” which moved the balloon laterally toward a line of trees. Just before touchdown the pilot said that she “pulled the top” to avoid hitting the trees and “we landed quickly dragging about 5 feet”. As the envelope deflated it snagged a tree causing minor damage to the balloon. The pilot sustained a fractured ankle and one passenger sustained minor injuries. The other occupant was not injured.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot’s failure to maintain control of the balloon during the approach and landing.

Findings

Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Contributed to outcome
Aircraft	Descent/approach/glide path - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Collision during takeoff/land
Landing-flare/touchdown	Hard landing (Defining event)
Landing-flare/touchdown	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Landing-flare/touchdown	Dragged wing/rotor/float/other

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	58,Female
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Balloon	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 6, 2009
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	May 11, 2009
Flight Time:	387 hours (Total, all aircraft), 304 hours (Total, this make and model), 367 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 31 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cameron	Registration:	N4502V
Model/Series:	Z77	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	6331
Landing Gear Type:	None	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 11, 2009 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1550 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	39 Hrs	Engines:	0
Airframe Total Time:	639 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KABQ, 5355 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	6 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	08:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	195°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 9000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	11 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	330°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.96 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	12°C / 4°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Rio Rancho, NM	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Albuquerque, NM	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	07:40 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Albuquerque Intl Airport KABQ	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	5355 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor, 1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	35.1375,-106.556114(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Latson, Thomas
Additional Participating Persons:	Ken Hand; FAA Albuquerque FSDO; Albuquerque, NM Richard S Cramer; FAA Albuquerque FSDO; Albuquerque, NM
Original Publish Date:	March 3, 2010
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=74910

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