



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Windsor, Colorado	Accident Number:	CEN13CA372
Date & Time:	June 24, 2013, 08:40 Local	Registration:	N1235J
Aircraft:	Kubicek BB70Z	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Defining Event:	Hard landing	Injuries:	2 Serious, 7 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Other work use		

Analysis

The pilot said there had been very little wind when he had launched in his balloon earlier and his flight at about 1,000 feet above ground level (agl) was normal. He reported that there was very little wind until he descended to about 300 feet agl when the wind began to interfere. The pilot advised all passengers to lower themselves inside the basket and to brace themselves for a hard landing. The passengers advised that the balloon basket hit the ground "very hard" and bounced several times before hitting the slope side of a dirt hill where the basket flipped onto its side and was dragged in the dirt in that tipped-over position. The total distance from first impact to the balloon's final resting location was estimated at about 1,300 feet. The impact resulted in substantial damage to the main basket, the basket partitions, and substantial damage to the burner cage.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilots' encounter with increased wind, which resulted in a hard and fast landing.

Findings

Environmental issues	High wind - Effect on operation
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Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Hard landing (Defining event)
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Landing	Dragged wing/rotor/float/other
Landing	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	59, Male
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:	Yes
Medical Certification:	None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	December 1, 2012
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 2000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 80 hours (Total, this make and model), 30 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Kubicek	Registration:	N1235J
Model/Series:	BB70Z	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	906
Landing Gear Type:	N/A	Seats:	12
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	April 4, 2013 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:	18 Hrs	Engines:	0
Airframe Total Time:	62 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	JOSEPH R HART	Rated Power:	
Operator:	LONGMONT HOT AIR BALLOON LLC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:	LONGMONT HOT AIR BALLOON LLC	Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KFNL, 5016 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	08:35 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	280°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	16 knots / 20 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	170°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.93 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	21°C / 10°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	LONGMONT, CO (NONE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	WINDSOR, CO (NONE)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Ft Collins-Loveland Municipal FNL	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	5016 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious, 7 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Serious, 7 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	40.439445,-104.976387(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Latson, Thomas
Additional Participating Persons:	Larry Ciancio; FAA Denver FSDO; Denver, CO
Original Publish Date:	October 21, 2013
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=87304

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