



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Phoenix, Arizona	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR14CA396
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	September 13, 2014, 08:15 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N59EX
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Ultramagic N250 - NO SERIES	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Windshear or thunderstorm	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Minor, 9 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Other work use		

## Analysis

The pilot reported that as the balloon descended to land, about 50 feet above ground level, a wind gust and down draft resulted in a rapid descent and subsequent collision with trees. The balloon landed hard and bounced several times. During the accident sequence, the basket flipped onto its side and was dragged in the dirt, which resulted in substantial damage to the structure. The pilot reported no preimpact mechanical failures or malfunctions with the balloon that would have precluded normal operation.

## 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 aircraft control while landing in downdraft and gusting wind conditions which resulted in striking trees and a subsequent hard landing.

## Findings

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<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Gusts - Effect on operation
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Downdraft - Effect on operation
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Tree(s) - Not specified

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Landing</b>	Windshear or thunderstorm (Defining event)
<b>Landing</b>	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
<b>Landing-flare/touchdown</b>	Hard landing

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	65
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Balloon	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	None
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	None	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	May 27, 2014
<b>Flight Time:</b>	(Estimated) 2600 hours (Total, all aircraft), 120 hours (Total, this make and model), 1742 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 27 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Ultramagic	<b>Registration:</b>	N59EX
<b>Model/Series:</b>	N250 - NO SERIES NO SERIES	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Balloon
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Unknown	<b>Serial Number:</b>	250/61
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Skid	<b>Seats:</b>	
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	May 2, 2014 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	5308 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	915 Hrs as of last inspection	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	MARS LEASING	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>	Hot Air Expeditions	<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>	PHX	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>	07:51 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Few / 10000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	10 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/ None
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	90°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.87 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	31°C / 14°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Phoenix, AZ	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Phoenix, AZ	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	07:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class E

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Minor, 9 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 Minor, 9 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	33.29,-112.237503(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Nixon, Albert
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Scott Boek; Federal Aviation Administration; Scottsdale, AZ
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	January 12, 2015
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=90179">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=90179</a>

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