



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Sedona, Arizona	Accident Number:	GAA19CA314
Date & Time:	June 5, 2019, 06:35 Local	Registration:	N3004S
Aircraft:	Cameron A-275	Aircraft Damage:	None
Defining Event:	Collision during takeoff/land	Injuries:	1 Serious, 17 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, as the balloon touched down, one of the ground crewmembers jumped into the basket to add his weight. As the balloon was coming to a stop, it encountered some rough terrain hidden by tall grass. The balloon bounced, and the ground crewmember was ejected from the basket and landed on the ground. The pilot added that the balloon "came up off the ground again and over the crew member." The crewmember sustained serious injuries.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident 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 balloon's encounter with rough terrain, which resulted in a bounced landing and a ground crewmember sustaining serious injuries.

Findings

Environmental issues	Rough terrain - Effect on operation
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Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Collision during takeoff/land (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	66, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Balloon	Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	January 13, 2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 6127 hours (Total, all aircraft), 845 hours (Total, this make and model), 6127 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 60 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 23 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cameron	Registration:	N3004S
Model/Series:	A-275 No Series	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:	2018	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Balloon	Serial Number:	6863
Landing Gear Type:	None	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 21, 2019 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	
Airframe Total Time:	99.9 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	P-Marks Plus Inc	Rated Power:	
Operator:	P-Marks Plus Inc	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:	Red Rock Balloons	Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KPRC, 5042 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	27 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	248°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.1 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	15°C / 7°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Sedona, AZ	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Sedona, AZ	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	05:25 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	None
Passenger Injuries:	16 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 17 None	Latitude, Longitude:	34.82389,-111.907501(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Benhoff, Kathryn
Additional Participating Persons:	Scott Boek; FAA; Scottsdale, AZ
Original Publish Date:	November 6, 2019
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=99554

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The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).