



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	LITTLETON, CO	Accident Number:	FTW94LA219
Date & Time:	07/01/1994, 0730 MDT	Registration:	N748CB
Aircraft:	Cameron V-77	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

SHORTLY AFTER LIFTING OFF, THE PILOT LIGHT ON THE BALLOON'S PROPANE BURNER EXTINGUISHED FOR UNDETERMINED REASONS, AND ATTEMPTS TO RELIGHT IT WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. BECAUSE THE BALLOON WAS DESCENDING NEAR POWERLINES, THE PILOT 'VENTED' IN ORDER TO RAPIDLY LOSE ALTITUDE. THE BALLOON TOUCHED DOWN ON A HIGHWAY, BOUNCED BACK UP, AND THE ENVELOPE CONTACTED POWERLINES, BURNING SEVERAL ENVELOPE PANELS.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A TOTAL FAILURE OF THE BALLOON'S HEATER SYSTEM (PILOT LIGHT) FOR UNDETERMINED REASONS. A FACTOR WAS UNSUITABLE TERRAIN ON WHICH TO MAKE A FORCED LANDING.

Findings

Occurrence #1: AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) BALLOON EQUIPMENT,BURNER SYSTEM - FAILURE,TOTAL
2. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

3. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE
4. OBJECT - WIRE,TRANSMISSION

Factual Information

On July 1, 1994, approximately 0730 mountain daylight time, N748CB, a Cameron Balloons V-77, was substantially damaged when it collided with powerlines in Littleton, Colorado. The private pilot was not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed.

The following is based on the pilot/operator report. Shortly after lifting off, the pilot light on the propane burner extinguished for undetermined reasons, and attempts to relight it were unsuccessful. Because the balloon was descending near powerlines, the pilot "vented" in order to rapidly lose altitude. The balloon touched down on a highway, bounced back up, and the envelope contacted powerlines about 20 feet above the basket. Several envelope panels were damaged by electrical arcing and there was a small grass fire.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	42, 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:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	18 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cameron	Registration:	N748CB
Model/Series:	V-77 V-77	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	635
Landing Gear Type:		Seats:	0
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	06/29/1994, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1550 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	0 Hours	Engines:	Unknown
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	WALTMAN, CAROLYN D.	Rated Power:	
Operator:	WALTMAN, CAROLYN D.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	APA, 5883 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0858 MDT	Direction from Accident Site:	70°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Thin Broken / 20000 ft agl	Visibility	50 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	220°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	26° C / 8° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0724 MDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	In-Flight
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	ARNOLD W SCOTT,	Report Date:	01/12/1995
Additional Participating Persons:	ERNEST L LITTLE; DENVER, CO		
Publish Date:			
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).