



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	GALLUP, NM	Accident Number:	FTW96LA059
Date & Time:	12/02/1995, 0930 MST	Registration:	N9606A
Aircraft:	Thunder and Colt AX9-140	Injuries:	1 Serious, 6 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot obtained a weather briefing about 1 hour and 15 minutes prior to the balloon flight. About 30 to 35 minutes into the flight, winds increased, and the balloon was pushed over a wilderness area with ridges and canyons. Several approaches were abandoned due to power lines. Winds increased to 35 knots and the passengers were briefed for a hard landing. During the landing, the pilot was ejected from the balloon. Passengers grabbed the vent line and continued to pull until the balloon came to a stop. The total drag distance was 300 to 400 feet.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the high winds and the pilot's failure to maintain aircraft control.

Findings

Occurrence #1: HARD LANDING

Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

1. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH WIND
2. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	36
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Balloon	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1131 hours (Total, all aircraft), 325 hours (Total, this make and model), 1101 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 23 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Thunder and Colt	Registration:	N9606A
Model/Series:	AX9-140 AX9-140	Engines:	Unknown
Operator:	COLLEEN F. MARCHAND	Engine Manufacturer:	
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	20 knots / 35 knots, 260°
Temperature:	10° C	Visibility	15 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Destination:		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	None
Passenger Injuries:	6 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JOYCE M SMITH	Adopted Date:	10/22/1996
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 pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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