



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	PHOENIX, AZ	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX88LA079
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	01/01/1988, 0930 MST	<b>Registration:</b>	N74169
<b>Aircraft:</b>	BALLOON WORKS FIREFLY 8-24	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 3 Minor, 1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

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## Analysis

DURING A SIGHTSEEING BALLOON FLIGHT, THE WINDS INCREASED TO THE POINT WERE A HIGH WIND LANDING WAS MADE. DURING THE LANDING THE BASKET WAS DRAGGED RESULTING IN SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO THE BASKET AND SERIOUS INJURY TO A PASSENGER. DURING TOUCHDOWN ONE OF THE PASSENGERS STARTED TO FALL FROM THE BASKET. THE PLT GRABBED HER AND THREW HER BACK INTO THE BASKET. THE PLT THEN WAS UNABLE TO REMAIN IN THE BASKET AND WAS DISLODGED, BUT MANAGED TO HANG ON, AS THE BASKET WAS DRAGGED.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

## Findings

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Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

### Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH WIND
2. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - DELAYED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) DIVERTED ATTENTION - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) WEATHER EVALUATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

### Findings

5. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	33, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Balloon	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	None None	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	381 hours (Total, all aircraft), 334 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 92 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 32 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	BALLOON WORKS	<b>Registration:</b>	N74169
<b>Model/Series:</b>	FIREFLY 8-24 FIREFLY 8-	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Balloon
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	F8071
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Hull	<b>Seats:</b>	
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	11/25/1987, Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	900 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	27 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	Unknown
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	294 Hours	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	UNKNOWN
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	UNKNOWN
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	SKIFF, JIM	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>	RAINBOW BALLOON FLTS	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	60 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	25 knots / 30 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	10°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	8° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	CAREFREE, AZ	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0755 MST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious, 2 Minor, 1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 3 Minor, 1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	DEBRA J ECKROTE	Report Date:	03/30/1989
Additional Participating Persons:	RUTH GRASEL; SCOTTSDALE, AZ		
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 <a href="mailto:pubinquiry@ntsb.gov">pubinquiry@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

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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](#).