



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<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>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 3 Minor, 1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

## 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

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

## Findings

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

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	33
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Balloon	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<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>Engines:</b>	Unknown
<b>Operator:</b>	RAINBOW BALLOON FLTS	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	UNKNOWN
<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	UNKNOWN
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	, 0 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Witness
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None / 0 ft agl	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	25 knots / 30 knots, 10°
<b>Temperature:</b>	8° C	<b>Visibility</b>	60 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	CAREFREE, AZ	<b>Destination:</b>	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	DEBRA J ECKROTE	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	03/30/1989
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	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:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@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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