



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Location: | ROUND ROCK, TX | Accident Number: | FTW86LRG15 |
| Date & Time: | 03/01/1986, 1000 CST | Registration: | N74176 |
| Aircraft: | BALLOON WORKS 8B | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | | Injuries: | 4 Minor |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal | | |

Analysis

THE BALLOON WAS DAMAGED DURING LANDING IN A WIND OF 15 KTS GUSTING TO 40 KTS. THE PLT SAID THAT THE SURFACE WIND INCREASED DURING THE FLT. THE BALLOON WAS BLOWN ABOUT 900 YDS WHILE DRAGGING THE BASKET ACROSS A GRASS FIELD DURING THE LANDING.

Probable Cause and Findings

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: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (C) WIND INFORMATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH WIND
 3. (C) WEATHER EVALUATION - INACCURATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Factual Information

Pilot Information

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| Certificate: | Commercial | Age: | 30, Male |
| 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 Unknown | Last FAA Medical Exam: | |
| Occupational Pilot: | | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | |
| Flight Time: | 930 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2 hours (Total, this make and model), 930 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Aircraft Make: | BALLOON WORKS | Registration: | N74176 |
| Model/Series: | 8B 8B | Aircraft Category: | Balloon |
| Year of Manufacture: | | Amateur Built: | No |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Normal | Serial Number: | F8B-45 |
| Landing Gear Type: | Retractable - Tricycle | Seats: | |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | Unknown | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | 1600 lbs |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | 3 Hours | Engines: | Unknown |
| Airframe Total Time: | 3 Hours | Engine Manufacturer: | |
| ELT: | Not installed | Engine Model/Series: | |
| Registered Owner: | | Rated Power: | |
| Operator: | ERNEST R. NEWTON | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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|----------------------------------|---------------------|---|------------------|
| 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 | 0 Miles |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None / 0 ft agl | Visibility (RVR): | 0 ft |
| Wind Speed/Gusts: | 15 knots / 40 knots | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Wind Direction: | 180° | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Altimeter Setting: | | Temperature/Dew Point: | 13° C |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | | | |
| Departure Point: | AUSTIN, TX | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | None |
| Destination: | | Type of Clearance: | None |
| Departure Time: | 0000 | Type of Airspace: | Class G |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|---------------------|---------|----------------------|-------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 Minor | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | 3 Minor | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 4 Minor | Latitude, Longitude: | |

Administrative Information

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|-----------------------------------|--|--------------|--|
| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | CHARLES R GREINKE | Report Date: | |
| Additional Participating Persons: | | | |
| 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/ . | | |

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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](#).