



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	OWENSBORO, KY	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ATL85LA204
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	07/02/1985, 1940 CDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N1534C
<b>Aircraft:</b>	BALLOON WORKS FIREFLY 7	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

PILOT LAUNCHED BALLOON FROM COLLEGE CAMPUS WITH TWO PAX. FLEW FOR 35 MINUTES. DURING FLIGHT HE RADIOED GROUND CREW WHICH WAS AT LANDING SITE. DURING DESCENT PILOT SAW UTILITY WIRES PREVIOUSLY UNNOTICED. PARACHUTE WAS VENTD TO INCREASE DESCENT RATE AND AVOID WIRES. BALLOON LANDED HARD AND BOUNCED INTO WIRES. ELECTRICAL ARCING SEVERED BASKET CABLES DROPPING BASKET 20 FEET TO GROUND.

## Probable Cause

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

## Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: LANDING

### Findings

1. OBJECT - WIRE, TRANSMISSION
2. (C) UNSAFE/HAZARDOUS CONDITION WARNING - NOT ISSUED - GROUND PERSONNEL

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	
<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>	208 hours (Total, all aircraft), 208 hours (Total, this make and model), 191 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	BALLOON WORKS	<b>Registration:</b>	N1534C
<b>Model/Series:</b>	FIREFLY 7 FIREFLY 7	<b>Engines:</b>	Unknown
<b>Operator:</b>	HUGH B. GILBERT	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	
<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## 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>	Pilot
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None / 0 ft agl	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	5 knots / 8 knots, 270°
<b>Temperature:</b>	27° C	<b>Visibility</b>	12 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>			<b>Destination:</b>

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	UNKNOWN	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Dirt
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry; Holes; Rough; Soft
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>			

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 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>	PRESTON E HICKS	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	
<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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