



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	Colo. Springs, CO	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN01LA158
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	09/02/2001, 0815 MDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N2575P
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Balloon Works Firefly 8B-15	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot and his passenger took off in the balloon, leveled off at 1,000 feet, and flew south. The wind velocity increased to about 15 mph and the pilot decided to land. He chose a field in which two balloons had already landed. He briefed his passenger on the position to assume for a high wind landing. The pilot made a "stand up" landing, but a thermal caused the balloon to ascend about 30 to 40 feet. It touched down a second time and the pilot vented the envelope. According to the pilot, the "passenger's foot was out of position and twisted on impact." X-rays taken later indicated the ankle was fractured.

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the passenger's failure to follow instructions given to brace for a high wind landing, and the pilot's failure to adequately monitor the passenger's actions. A contributing factor was the thermal lift.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: HARD LANDING  
Phase of Operation: LANDING

### Findings

1. PASSENGER BRIEFING - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - THERMAL LIFT
3. (C) INSTRUCTIONS, WRITTEN/VERBAL - NOT FOLLOWED - PASSENGER
4. (C) SUPERVISION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	34
<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>	131 hours (Total, all aircraft), 24 hours (Total, this make and model), 96 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Balloon Works	<b>Registration:</b>	N2575P
<b>Model/Series:</b>	Firefly 8B-15	<b>Engines:</b>	0
<b>Operator:</b>	Philip L. Campbell	<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>	COS, 6184 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	8 knots / , 350°
<b>Temperature:</b>	16° C	<b>Visibility</b>	10 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Colo. Springs, CO (NONE)	<b>Destination:</b>	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Minor
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<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>	Arnold W Scott	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	02/20/2002
<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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