



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Cottage Grove, MN	Accident Number:	CHI03LA147
Date & Time:	06/02/2003, 2007 CDT	Registration:	N52461
Aircraft:	Aerostar S-77A	Injuries:	1 Serious, 8 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

A passenger was seriously injured during a hard landing in a balloon ride . The pilot released a line to his chase crew, who were unsuccessful in slowing the balloon down. The pilot then climbed to clear obstacles and deployed the parachute top vent to descend onto a baseball field. The pilot deployed the aero chute vent during flare. The balloon bounced three to four times before stopping.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The inadequate touchdown by the pilot.

Findings

Occurrence #1: HARD LANDING

Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

1. (C) TOUCHDOWN - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	54
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Balloon	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Aerostar	Registration:	N52461
Model/Series:	S-77A	Engines:	
Operator:	Wiederkehr Balloons International Inc.	Engine Manufacturer:	
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MSP, 841 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 20000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	11 knots / , 260°
Temperature:	16°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Lakeland, MN	Destination:	Cottage Grove, MN

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	None
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious, 7 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	44.844444, -92.943056		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Mitchell F Gallo	Adopted Date:	12/30/2003
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 pubin@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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