



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Rio Rancho, NM	Accident Number:	DEN03LA119
Date & Time:	07/01/2003, 0745 MDT	Registration:	N360E
Aircraft:	Eagle Balloons Corp. C-7	Aircraft Damage:	None
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that when the balloon took off, the winds were calm. He reported on landing they were approximately 10 knots. The pilot said he made a stand-up landing on hilly terrain. The pilot reported that the landing was a hard landing, but was not one of the hardest landings he'd experienced. During the landing, the passenger suffered a compound fracture in her lower left leg.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: a hard landing for undetermined reasons. Factors relating to the accident were the unfavorable winds and landing on hilly terrain.

Findings

Occurrence #1: HARD LANDING
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED
2. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - UNFAVORABLE WIND

Factual Information

On July 1, 2003, at 0745 mountain daylight time, an Eagle Balloons Corporation C-7 balloon, N360E, piloted by a private pilot, sustained a hard landing at Rio Rancho, New Mexico. During the hard landing, a passenger on board the balloon was seriously injured. The balloon sustained no damage and the pilot was uninjured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. The personal flight was being conducted under the provisions of Title 14 CFR Part 91 without a flight plan. The local flight originated at 0710.

The pilot reported that the winds were calm when they took off. He reported on landing they were approximately 10 knots. The pilot said he made a stand-up landing in hilly terrain. The pilot reported that the landing was a hard landing, but was not one of the hardest landings he'd experienced.

A Federal Aviation Administration inspector reported the passenger suffered a compound fracture in her lower left leg during the landing. The passenger was transported to a local hospital.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	40, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	
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	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	08/08/2001
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Eagle Balloons Corp.	Registration:	N360E
Model/Series:	C-7	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	E81707
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	Ohio Knox III	Rated Power:	
Operator:	Ohio Knox III	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ABQ, 5352 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0756 MDT	Direction from Accident Site:	180°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 14000 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	170°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.22 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	23° C / 8° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Rio Rancho, NM	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0710 MDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	None
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	35.350000, -106.621667

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): David C Bowling **Report Date:** 11/25/2003

Additional Participating Persons: Tamara Bell; Federal Aviation Administration; Albuquerque, NM

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 pubinq@ntsb.gov, or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/>.

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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](#).