



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Battle Creek, MI	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CHI07CA189
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	07/02/2007, 2045 EDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N4021M
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cameron Balloons Z-77	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor, 1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation -		

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The balloon was substantially damaged after it landed and caught fire during the Battle Creek Field of Flight Hot Air Balloon Festival. The pilot stated that after approximately one hour in the air, the balloon landed safely in a yard. When the pilot looked up inside the top of the balloon envelope, the "parachute top did not reseal." He attempted to reseal the top by using a "blast of heat" from the burners but it did not work. The pilot "knew the balloon would quickly sink down on top of the basket" so he turned the burners to their horizontal position and prepared to push the envelope fabric away. When the balloon envelope began to descend towards the ground the pilot reported that "we suddenly had a fire in the basket." Both the pilot and passenger were able to exit the basket. The pilot "determined the fire was coming from the burners" so he returned to the basket and turned off the fuel tanks. The fire was subsequently extinguished by the passenger and bystanders.

An examination of the balloon after the accident revealed the fuel valve for the whisper burners was in the "on" position.

## Pilot Information

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<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	52, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Balloon	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Unknown	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	08/01/2003
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	895 hours (Total, all aircraft), 31 hours (Total, this make and model)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cameron Balloons	Registration:	N4021M
Model/Series:	Z-77	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	6454
Landing Gear Type:	None	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	0
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	BTL	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	1953 EDT	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	190°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.23 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	23° C / 5° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	unknown, MI	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	Battle Creek, MI	Type of Clearance:	Unknown
Departure Time:	1930 EDT	Type of Airspace:	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	42.306389, -85.221111

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Mitchell Gallo
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Steve Betzer; Federal Aviation Administration - GRR FSDO; Grand Rapids, MI
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<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> .