



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Hanover, NH	Accident Number:	ERA10CA462
Date & Time:	09/01/2010, 1925 EDT	Registration:	n2267U
Aircraft:	HEAD BALLOONS INC AX9 118	Injuries:	1 Serious, 6 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot stated that he was conducting a sightseeing flight just prior to sunset when the balloon encountered updrafts. He elected to land in the back yard of a private residence and initiated a descent. He allowed the basket of the balloon to contact the top of the trees to slow down his forward momentum, in an effort to make the landing area. Upon clearing the trees, he observed powerlines in the vicinity and aborted the landing. The pilot immediately selected another backyard for his touchdown point. He observed another large tree and allowed the basket to contact the tree and the basket descended upright next to the tree. The canopy received a minor tear and one passenger sustained a fractured wrist during the landing.

Flight Events

Landing - Other weather encounter
Landing - Off-field or emergency landing
Landing - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The balloon's encounter with an updraft, resulting in an immediate landing and an intentional collision with a tree.

Findings

Personnel issues-Action/decision-Info processing/decision-(general)-Pilot
Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Wind-Updraft-Effect on operation - C
Environmental issues-Physical environment-Object/animal/substance-Tree(s)-Contributed to outcome

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	48
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Balloon	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	953 hours (Total, all aircraft), 179 hours (Total, this make and model), 953 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 74 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 24 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	HEAD BALLOONS INC	Registration:	n2267U
Model/Series:	AX9 118	Engines:	0
Operator:	DAOUST DARREK N	Engine Manufacturer:	
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	LEB, 603 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Dusk	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots, 160°
Temperature:	23°C / 18°C	Visibility	9 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Quechee, VT	Destination:	Quechee, VT

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious, 5 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Carrol A Smith	Adopted Date:	05/11/2011
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=77184		

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