



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Provo, UT	Accident Number:	GAA15CA157A
Date & Time:	07/02/2015, 0700 MDT	Registration:	N7148P
Aircraft:	BALLOON WORKS FIREFLY8 - 24	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

This report was modified on 4/21/2016. Please see the public docket for this accident for more information.

The pilots of the two balloons involved in a midair collision reported that they both began the takeoff ascent as part of a competition. The Balloon Works balloon pilot, who was lower than the Balony balloon during the ascent, reported that his envelope collided vertically with the basket of the Balony balloon, about 2,000 feet above the ground. The Balony balloon pilot reported that he saw the Balloon Works balloon below him and started to use both of the available burners, but was unable to climb fast enough. A witness to the accident reported that the Balony balloon pilot did not use the balloon's burners until after the collision. After the midair collision, the Balloon Works balloon began to descend about 700 feet per minute and impacted the ground. The pilot of the Balony Balloon reported that he landed without further incident.

Both of the pilots reported there were no pre-impact mechanical failures or malfunctions with their balloons or burners that would have precluded normal operation.

A postaccident inspection of the Balony balloon revealed no damage to the balloon or the burner. A postaccident inspection of the Balloon Works balloon revealed substantial damage to the envelope.

Flight Events

Initial climb - Midair collision

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

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The failure of the Balony balloon pilot to see and avoid the Balloon Works balloon during an ascent, which resulted in the basket of the Balony balloon colliding vertically with the envelope of the Balloon Works balloon.

Findings

Personnel issues-Psychological-Attention/monitoring-Monitoring other aircraft-Pilot of other aircraft - C

Environmental issues-Physical environment-Object/animal/substance-Aircraft-Contributed to outcome

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	73
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Balloon	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 3000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 200 hours (Total, this make and model), 3000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 14 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 14 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	BALLOON WORKS	Registration:	N7148P
Model/Series:	FIREFLY8 - 24	Engines:	1 None
Operator:	BALLOONS WEST INC	Engine Manufacturer:	Burner Balloon Works
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	F1
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KPVU, 4497 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 20000 ft agl
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots, 200°
Temperature:	20° C / 9° C	Visibility	15 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Provo, UT	Destination:	Provo, UT

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jackie L Vanover	Adopted Date:	08/12/2015
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=91500		

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