



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

Location:	Albuquerque, NM	Accident Number:	CEN17CA013
Date & Time:	10/02/2016, 0830 MDT	Registration:	N5161Y
Aircraft:	AEROSTAR RX-8	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Collision during takeoff/land	Injuries:	2 Minor, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

The hot air free balloon was participating in the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. According to the pilot, he was approaching a vacant field for landing after a one-hour flight. The pilot approached the field from about 8 feet above the ground and the envelope impacted an unnoticed power line during landing. The pilot deflated the envelope, but the wind pulled the envelope and basket into the lines, which resulted in arcing against the uprights and frame.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	64, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Balloon	Restraint Used:	None
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None	Last Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	08/09/2015
Flight Time:	317 hours (Total, all aircraft), 150 hours (Total, this make and model), 317 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	AEROSTAR	Registration:	N5161Y
Model/Series:	RX-8	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:	1999	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Balloon	Serial Number:	3318
Landing Gear Type:	None	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	02/01/2016, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	
Airframe Total Time:	315 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	
Operator:	On file	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KABQ, 5314 ft msl	Observation Time:	0852 MDT
Distance from Accident Site:	6 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	181°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 11000 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	16°C / 7°C
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots, 290°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.2 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Albuquerque, NM	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Albuquerque, NM	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0730 MDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	2 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Minor, 1 None		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Michael J Folkerts
Additional Participating Persons:	Nathan Gordon; Flight Standards District Office; Albuquerque, NM
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=94168