



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

Location:	Winters, CA	Accident Number:	GAA17CA082
Date & Time:	11/14/2016, 0850 PST	Registration:	N69520
Aircraft:	CAMERON A315	Aircraft Damage:	None
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 Serious, 14 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Aerial Observation - Sightseeing		

The pilot of a balloon reported that while aloft he observed the wind increase to about 10 miles per hour, so he briefed his passengers on how to brace for a "high wind landing" and possible basket tip-over. The pilot further reported that he descended to about 3 feet above ground, and once over the target landing area he "shut off [the] fuel tanks and burners then pulled the smart vent (rapid deflation valve)." Subsequently, on touch down the basket bounced once and skidded about 15 to 20 yards before stopping with the basket tipping over on its side.

The pilot reported that he secured the basket and while the passengers were exiting the basket, his ground crew informed him that a passenger had injured her ankle. According to the pilot, the injured passenger did not speak English as her first language and he was unsure if she braced appropriately for the landing or if she sustained the serious injury while exiting the basket. The pilot reported that another passenger informed him that the passenger sustained the injury while she was exiting the basket.

The pilot did not report any preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the balloon that would have precluded normal operation.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	61, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Center
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 None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	05/27/2015
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 8721 hours (Total, all aircraft), 8688 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 81 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CAMERON	Registration:	N69520
Model/Series:	A315 NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Year of Manufacture:	2014	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Balloon	Serial Number:	6742
Landing Gear Type:	None	Seats:	17
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	07/26/2016, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	3 Unknown
Airframe Total Time:	358.5 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	NAPA VALLEY BALLOONS INC.	Rated Power:	
Operator:	NAPA VALLEY BALLOONS INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KEDU, 69 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	8 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1655 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	230°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	9 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	10°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.22 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	DAVIS/WOODLAND/WINTER S, CA (DWA)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	DAVIS/WOODLAND/WINTER S, CA (DWA)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0800 PDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	YOLO COUNTY (DWA)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	100 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	N/A	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	None
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious, 13 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 14 None	Latitude, Longitude:	38.597778, -121.891111 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Adam M Gerhardt
Additional Participating Persons:	Michael Bohamera; FAA; Sacramento, CA
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=94444