

No: 11/92

Ref: EW/G92/09/17

Category: 5

Aircraft Type and Registration: Thunder AX9-120 Hot Air Balloon, G-BUAT

No & Type of Engines: None

Year of Manufacture: 1992

Date & Time (UTC): 15 September 1992 at 1830 hrs

Location: Ainsdale, near Southport, Lancashire

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 4

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - 1 serious

Nature of Damage: None

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence (Balloons)

Commander's Age: 43 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 447 hours (of which 111 were on type)
Last 90 days - 50 hours
Last 28 days - 6 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

After a routine flight in good weather conditions, with a surface wind of 100°/7 kt, the pilot of the balloon aligned the rectangular basket for a touch down on its longer side for a normal landing. Prior to landing all loose articles had been stowed and the passengers briefed to adopt the correct landing position. At a height of approximately 50 feet the pilot felt a slight change in wind direction and "burned" to counteract any possible loss of lift. The basket touched down normally but bounced and rotated through 90° dragging along the ground for 25 metres. A passenger, who had prematurely released his grip on the restraining handles, fell onto another passenger who later discovered that he had fractured his leg.