



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Pam Sullivan
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region

Date: April 28, 2014
Person Contacted: Karl Fruendt
NTSB Accident Number: CEN14CA215

Narrative:

Mr. Fruendt has been around ballooning for 18 years and is currently learning to fly.

They took off and headed south southeast over the Colorado Springs Airport. They then dropped down into the "bowl" area at which time the wind direction changed almost 90 degrees and they began traveling to the west.

The pilot chose a couple of landing areas which were eventually discounted because the wind was "squirrely" and it wouldn't have been safe to land. The pilot then decided to land on the school grounds. The pilot was talking to him during the entire landing sequence, telling him what they were doing and what was going on. He knew it was going to be a hard, fast landing due to the increased wind condition. The landing was made on slightly up sloping terrain.

He crouched down in the basket for the landing. The basket is triangular so after it hit the ground it turned to a flat side. The basket then slid prior to coming to a stop. Mr. Fruendt stated he felt his ankle roll during the landing. When he crawled out of the basket, he realized he had injured his ankle, but didn't know to what extent.

The pilot and ground crew iced his ankle. He stated he walked on it for a couple days after the accident prior to going to the doctor where he was diagnosed with a hairline fracture of the tibia.