



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Dr. David C. Bowling
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Central Region

Date: October 10, 2013

Person Contacted: Mr. Mark Kilgore, Pilot of the Balloon

NTSB Accident Number: CEN14LA007

Narrative:

Mr. Kilgore said they took off from Fiesta Field and had been in the air for a little over an hour when the accident occurred. He said he and his passenger, Mr. Danny Lavoto, a friend of his, were attempting to land. It was about 8:30 a.m. He said they made three attempts to land. The wind was too hard on the first attempt. The next attempt, they found themselves over a residential subdivision and as they got close to the ground there were cars and other obstacles that prevented them from landing. Mr. Kilgore said he then saw a street with a power line on the far side, and an open area on the other side of the power line. He said his intent was to get over the power line and then drop the balloon down on the ground.

Mr. Kilgore said they were over the road and a couple of feet above where the tops of the power lines were, when the balloon dropped and struck the power lines. He said he burned to get off and over them. The basket slid off the first two wires. When the basket touched the third wire, Mr. Kilgore said he heard the sound of an electrical short and then saw an explosion. The passenger was at the south side of the basket, over where the explosion occurred. That was the last thing the pilot remembered until he found himself on the ground with the envelope going down. He tried to put a fire out that was ensuing in the basket and tried to get the passenger out of the basket. The crew arrived shortly after. They had been delayed getting to where the balloon came down because they were in the subdivision. The crew told the pilot they saw the balloon basket hit the power line, then it ascended, the throat closed, and then it went down.

Mr. Kilgore said that he received burns to his arms and face. The passenger received severe burns up his arm, such that the arm had to later be amputated.