

Scotts Bluff County Sheriff

Incident Report

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09/07/2016 22:55

Incident 9L16004599-0 ORI NB0790000

Incident Date/Time: 09/04/16 08:30 To: 09/04/16 08:30

Report Date/Time: 09/04/16 08:30

File#: 169L004596

Time Arrived: 08:49 Time Cleared: 09:23

Description: ASSIST OTHER AGENCY

Complainant:	DOB: 11/18/50	Phone(H): [REDACTED]
		Race:
		Sex: M
		Ethnic:
Occurred At: 69341		Height: 5'0"
CR A/CR 11		Weight: 0
		Hair:
MORRILL, NE 69341		Eyes:
Location: --		DOC:

Complainant	Occupation:	Phone(W): --
Employer:		

Offenses:

No record found

Referral:	Inv Due:
Children:	
Evidence Taken: Photo: Y Fingerprint(s): N Other:	Status Date: 09/06/16

Status: Cleared

Exceptionally Cleared:

Investigator: -

Inv Assign:

Reporting Officer: 921 - OVERMAN, MARK

Supervisor: -

Supervisor Approved:

Entered By: -

Records: -

Record Approved:

Addendum Codes: WRITTEN INCIDENT REPORT

Copies To:

Person(s) Involved:

Description	Name	DOB	Address	City/State	Phone
Subject	CLAPP, ROYCE T	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	MCCOOK, NE 69001	[REDACTED]
Subject	LEISY, BRENDA KAY	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	GERING, NE 69341	[REDACTED]
Subject	SCHWEGEL, CHRISTOPHE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SAN RAMON, CA 94583	[REDACTED]
Subject	QUIBLE, DAMIAN J "JAKE"	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	LINCOLN, NE 68504	[REDACTED]
Subject	QUIBLE, SHANNON L	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	LINCOLN, NE 68504	[REDACTED]
Subject	STRUEMPLER, SCOTT	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	MORRILL, NE 69361	[REDACTED]

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Subject # 1 - Subject

Name:	CLAPP,ROYCE T	Race:	White
DOB:	[REDACTED]	Sex:	Male
Phone:	[REDACTED]	Ethn:	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	Height:	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	Weight:	[REDACTED]
	MCCOOK,NE 69001	Hair:	[REDACTED]
SSN:	- -	Eyes:	[REDACTED]
DOC:		Skin:	
OLN:	G48010999	Face:	NONE
	ST: NE	Age:	55 -

Subject # 2 - Subject

Name:	LEISY,BRENDA KAY	Race:	White
DOB:	[REDACTED]	Sex:	Female
Phone:	[REDACTED]	Ethn:	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	Height:	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	Weight:	[REDACTED]
	GERING,NE 69341	Hair:	[REDACTED]
SSN:	- -	Eyes:	[REDACTED]
DOC:		Skin:	
OLN:	G64003909	Face:	NONE
	ST: NE	Age:	45 -

Subject # 3 - Subject

Name:	SCHWEGEL,CHRISTOPHER ALLEN	Race:	White
DOB:	[REDACTED]	Sex:	Male
Phone:	[REDACTED]	Ethn:	
	[REDACTED]	Height:	' 0"
	[REDACTED]	Weight:	0
	SAN RAMON,CA 94583	Hair:	
SSN:	[REDACTED]	Eyes:	
DOC:		Skin:	
OLN:		Face:	NONE
	ST:	Age:	50 -

Subject # 4 - Subject

Name:	QUIBLE,DAMIAN J "JAKE"	Race:	White
DOB:	[REDACTED]	Sex:	Male
Phone:	[REDACTED]	Ethn:	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	Height:	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	Weight:	[REDACTED]
	LINCOLN,NE 68504	Hair:	[REDACTED]
SSN:	- -	Eyes:	[REDACTED]
DOC:		Skin:	
OLN:	G66004320	Face:	NONE
	ST: NE	Age:	43 -

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Subject # 5 - Subject

Name:	QUIBLE,SHANNON L	Race:	White
DOB:	[REDACTED]	Sex:	Female
Phone:	[REDACTED]	Ethn:	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	Height:	[REDACTED]
		Weight:	[REDACTED]
		Hair:	[REDACTED]
	LINCOLN,NE 68504	Eyes:	[REDACTED]
SSN:	- -	Skin:	[REDACTED]
DOC:		Face:	NONE
OLN:	H12100638	Age:	40 -
	ST: NE		

Subject # 6 - Subject

Name:	STRUEMPLER,SCOTT	Race:	White
DOB:	[REDACTED]	Sex:	Male
Phone:	[REDACTED]	Ethn:	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	Height:	[REDACTED]
		Weight:	[REDACTED]
		Hair:	[REDACTED]
	MORRILL,NE 69361	Eyes:	[REDACTED]
SSN:	- -	Skin:	[REDACTED]
DOC:		Face:	NONE
OLN:	G21029680	Age:	47 -
	ST: NE		

Vehicle

No record found

Property

No record found

Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Office

Incident Report

Case Number: 9L16004599

Offense: Assist Other Agency

On the morning of Sunday, September 4, 2016, I Sheriff Mark Overman was conducting traffic control at the Mitchell airport for the "Old West Balloon Fest." I responded to a report of a hot air balloon that had landed in power lines northeast of Morrill on County Road A between County Roads 10 and 11. As I was responding to the area, I heard Morrill Fire Department units reporting that the balloon was down, there was no fire, and all of the passengers were safe.

The incident took place on the south side of County Road A, between County Roads 10 and 11, in power lines owned by the Village of Morrill. The location is approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the east city limits of Morrill, Nebraska. The balloon launched earlier from the Mitchell airport, approximately 6.58 miles southeast of the location where it landed.

Interview: Pilot-Royce Clapp

On arrival I spoke with the balloon pilot/owner, Royce Clapp. He told me that he was trying to get the balloon down safely when he ran out of fuel and found himself directly above power lines. He said that there was no air moving whatsoever, and no way to maneuver away from the lines. Had he chosen to come down earlier he would have landed in a corn field, damaging crops, so his intent was to come down on the north side of the power lines where there was a bean field and there would be very little crop damage if any. He told me that he had recently looked at a gauge that showed he had 6% fuel left, but found he was completely out. He said that as the balloon descended in between power lines he grabbed one of the lines to keep it from contacting the gondola. He also instructed his passengers on how to exit the balloon safely by "hopping" and getting away from it quickly. The balloon descended through the center and north lines of a 3-line system. When the balloon touched down, all of the passengers were able to exit safely. Clapp deflated the balloon envelope, and as it deflated it became draped over the north power line. Clapp said he was aware that he was required to report this incident to the National Transportation Safety Board. Clapp said that his balloon suffered only a small burn and the damage was minor.

Interview: passenger – Brenda Leisy

Brenda Leisy was standing on the road east of where the balloon had come to rest, and fire personnel identified her as one of the passengers in the balloon. I know her, and knew that she was one of the organizers of the "Old West Balloon Fest." She was emotional and shaking when I talked to her. She said that she was terrified as they were descending through the power lines, and was laying on the floor of the gondola. She said that the pilot was talking to them and telling them how to exit the balloon safely. She said that when the balloon touched down she ran from the area as fast as she could.

Interview: passenger-Chris Schwegel

I spoke with Chris Schwegel on the road east of where the balloon had come to rest. He stated that they were unable to maneuver due to no wind and no fuel, and came down between power lines. He said that the pilot was talking to them about how to exit as they descended.

Interview: witnesses- Damian "Jake" and Shannon Quible

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Offense: Assist Other Agency

On the afternoon of September 4, I learned that Jake and Shannon Quible and their children had witnessed and recorded this incident. I spoke with them at the Western Nebraska Regional Airport. Jake said they were at the balloon launch and had been following this particular balloon from the time it launched. They saw it descending and hitting the power lines, and Jake said he thought he was about to witness people dying. He said he saw sparks when the balloon gondola came through the lines. He said they were about a quarter mile away when the balloon descended, and his 11 year-old son Alex was video recording it on his phone.

Shannon Quible told me that they were following the balloon, and both she and her son Alex were video recording it as it descended. She showed me both of the videos. In hers the balloon is out of the frame for part of the descent. However in Alex's it is visible throughout the descent. She forwarded that video to me.

Evidence

Photos taken at the scene and the video of the balloon descent. I archived all of these items on CD-R and placed it into evidence. They are also saved under this case number on the department T-drive.

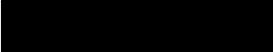
Interview: Scott Struempler, Village of Morrill Electrical Department

Village of Morrill electrical department employee Scott Struempler told me that there was only minor damage to the power lines. Struempler said that the incident caused a power outage impacting four homes and a number of irrigation systems. Power was restored prior to 11 a.m. Struempler told me that the people in the balloon were very lucky because the center power line carries 12740 volts. He said that a fuse blew when the balloon touched the lines.

A lineman from Roosevelt Public Power District responded to the scene before it was known that this was a Village of Morrill line. He assisted in making the line safe and removing the balloon envelope from the power line.

The Sheriff's Office, Morrill Fire Department, Village of Morrill Electrical Department, Roosevelt Public Power personnel, and officials with the Old West Balloon Fest responded to the scene.

I notified the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) of the incident. I later participated in a conference call with several of their representatives and the pilot, Royce Clapp. I have had further contacts with NTSB personnel and will forward all of our reports and photographs to them.


M. Overman  Sheriff