

[REDACTED]

From: Siva Ram Konasani [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 9:51 PM
To: Waterhouse, Frank (FAA); [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: few pics

Hope you get this message. If not I will call you tomorrow.

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 7, 2017, at 1:21 PM, skonasa [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Frank,

Sorry for taking this long. Here is the incident report.

There were 5 people in our group out of the 9 people travelling.

Myself: Venkata Siva Ram Konasani

My Wife: Srilakshmi Yadlapati

My daughter 4year old: Irshita Mugdha Konasani

My Friend and his wife: Deepak Goel and Neha Goel.

We met Art around 7 A.M on Feb 20 2017 at the Starbucks near by and went to the balloon ride location. We were given instructions about the balloon ride. Balloon was filled with hot air and we took off at approximately 7.45A.M. We were the last ones to take off. Art was very jovial and calm. He explained about the different Albuquerque land marks. We went over the river and ride was very smooth. He lowered the air balloon over the river and we sailed back up. Once we were close to I25 every body was taking pictures. Art turned on all the burners hard. But we were still going down. Then we hit the electric pole. Art lost control of the burner as he fell down into the bucket. The burner cable got cut and also the balloon got on fire. The fire sparkles from the balloon fell on my wife and her dress got holes on it. The fire fighter from Alaska had holes in his cap.

Any way, Art got up and took control of the burner without panicking and raised the balloon. Luckily the balloon fire didn't spread and Art landed the balloon in the UNM campus. We were lucky to be alive on that day. Art was very calm during this entire episode.

I am attaching few images before I-25 and after I-25 and just before hitting the electric pole.

Hope these help you in investigation.

If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call.

~~Siva Ram Konasani
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Srilakshmi Konasani** [REDACTED]

Date: Tue, Mar 7, 2017 at 12:20 PM

Subject: few pics

To: siva ram konasan [REDACTED]

<IMG_8250.JPG>

<IMG_8251.JPG>

<IMG_8252.JPG>

* CONDUCTED PHONE INTERVIEW ON 3/7/2017 WITH JENNIFER

* PASSENGERS ON N709TC ON 2/20/2017

NAME: JENNIFER ROOS + ALAN ROOS

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: [REDACTED] EMAIL: _____

AGE: _____ OCCUPATION: _____

EMPLOYER: _____

In your own words, describe what you recall about the event. Attach additional sheets if necessary:

JENNIFER STATED THAT THIS IS WHAT BOTH HER HUSBAND
& HERSELF RECALL:

- STATED THERE WERE 4 COUPLES + 1 FOUR YR OLD GIRL WITH 1 PILOT
- DEPARTED BETWEEN 7:30 - 8:00 AM FROM COORS / MONTANO (NOT SURE EXACTLY) AND THAT THEY WERE THE LAST BALLOON TO ~~LAUNCH~~ LAUNCH AS THERE WERE OTHER BALLOONS.
- THEY HEARD PILOT CALL SOMEONE TELLING THEM THEY WERE HEADING TOWARDS AIRPORT AIRSPACE WHEN THEY WERE OVER I-40 INTERSTATE.
- STATED THEY THINK THEY WERE SLOWLY DESCENDING AS THEY WERE CROSSING I-25 INTERSTATE. BOTH THOUGHT THEY SAW HIGHRISE BUILDINGS COMING FAST + WERE HopING THEY WOULD CLEAR THE BUILDINGS. THEY DID CLEAR THEM BUT WITHIN SECONDS AFTERWARDS SAW POWER LINES. * THEY STATED THE PILOT WAS APPLYING THE BURNERS BEFORE OR OVER I-25 BUT KEPT ON BURNING. THEY DID NOT RISE + STRUCK THE POWER LINES. ONCE CLEAR OF THE POWER LINES THEY ROSE UP, FOUND A LANDING SPOT

AND LANDED IN A SOCCER FIELD SAFELY.

- IN HINDSIGHT SHE STATES SHE REMEMBERS THE ARC + CABLE BREAKING WHEN THEY STRUCK THE POWER LINES + THE BASKET TILTING: SCARY.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

AVIATION SAFETY INSPECTOR SW-01

ABQ FSDO 2150-1 (5/28/2015)

* CONDUCTED OVER THE PHONE ON 2/24/17 WITH ERIC
* PASSENGERS ON N709TC ON 2/20/2017

NAME: ERIC + AMANDA NOSICH

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

AGE: _____ OCCUPATION: _____

EMPLOYER: _____

In your own words, describe what you recall about the event. Attach additional sheets if necessary:

ERIC STATED THAT THIS IS WHAT BOTH RECALLED:

- STATED THERE WERE 10 TOTAL PEOPLE ON BALLOON INCLUDING THE PILOT.
- STATED NICE TAKE-OFF + AIR TOUR LEADING UP TO CRASHING INTO POWERLINES
- STATED AS THEY CROSSED OVER I-25, HE NOTICED THE PILOT KEPT APPLYING BURNERS TO BALLOON BUT IT SEEMED THEY WERE DROPPING + NOT GAINING ALTITUDE.
- AFTER THEY FLEW OVER SOME BUILDINGS EVERYONE SAW POWERLINES. WITHIN A SHORT TIME THE PILOT SAID "EVERYONE BRACE". THEY STRUCK THE POWERLINES + EVERYONE SAW A BIG ARC. A CABLE BROKE + ONE POWERLINE WAS STILL ON BASKET. HE STATED THE PILOT LIFTED THE CABLE OFF THE BASKET + THEN THE BALLOON ROSE UP AS THE BURNERS WERE STILL GOING.
- THOUGHT PILOT DID A GOOD JOB + HE MADE SURE EVERYONE WAS O.K.
- THEY LANDED SAFELY
- IN AFTERMATH, ERIC STATED HE THOUGHT THE PILOT DID EVERYTHING HE COULD OF DONE + WOULD RIDE WITH HIM AGAIN.


Signature AVIATION SAFETY INSPECTOR SW-01

Date