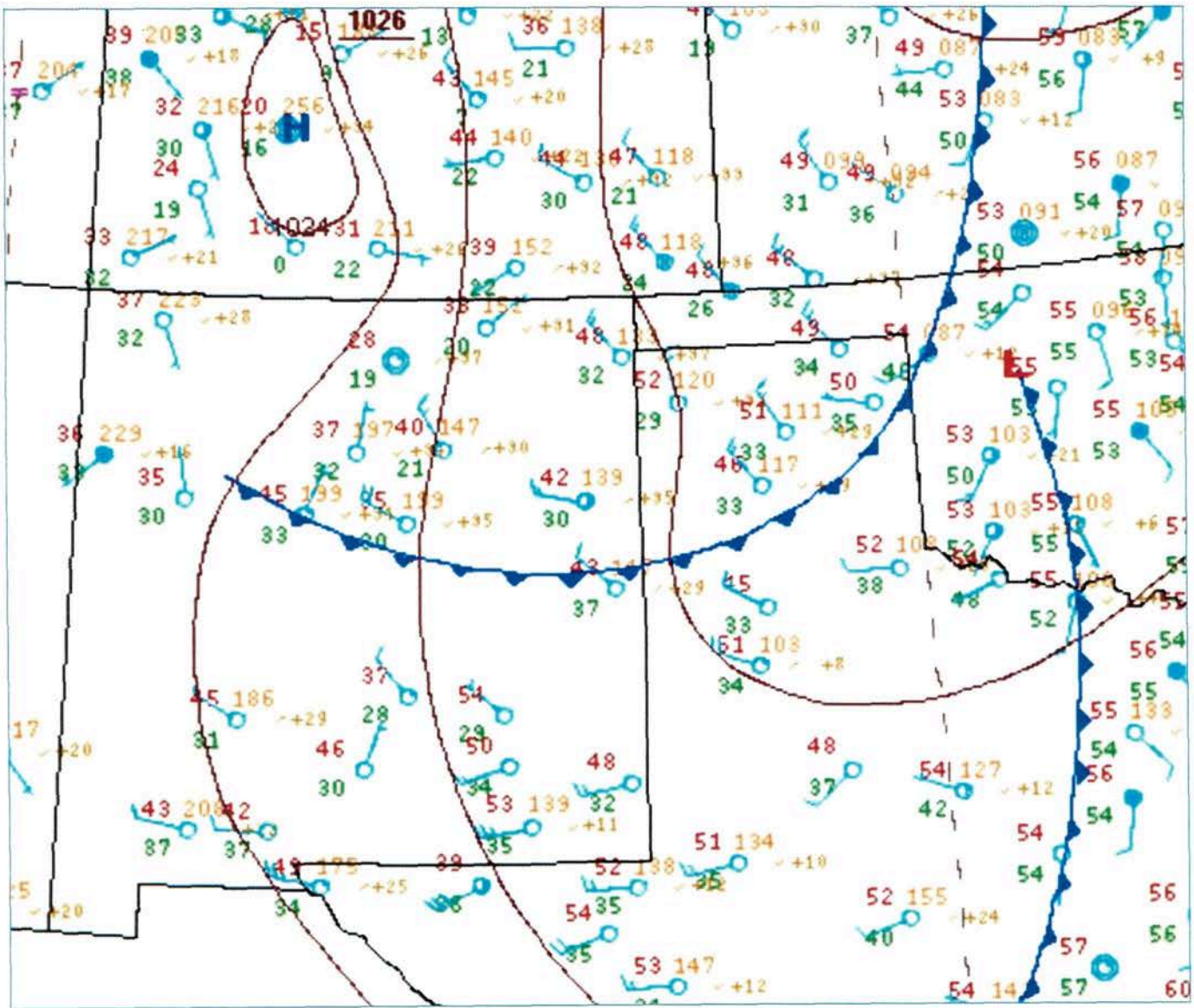


From: Eick Donald
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 6:16 AM
To: Bowling David
Subject: CEN17LA118 - Albuquerque, NM Balloon accident

Weather data for Albuquerque, NM on February 20, 2017

Synoptic conditions – The NWS Surface Analysis Chart for 0800 MST (1500Z) depicted a cold front moving southward across New Mexico and was located immediately south of the Albuquerque area at the time of the accident. The front resulted in a shift in the winds to the north-northwest with an increasing pressure gradient behind the front.



A review of the NWS National composite weather radar indicated no echoes over the area surrounding the period.

Observations – Albuquerque International Airport (KABQ):

Albuquerque weather at 0752 MST, wind from 020° at 4 knots, visibility 10 statute miles, a few clouds at 4,000 feet agl, temperature 7° Celsius (C), dew point 1° C, altimeter 30.19 inches of mercury (Hg). Remarks; automated surface observation system, sea level pressure 1019.9-hPa, mountain tops obscured northeast and southeast.

Albuquerque weather at 0852 MST, wind from 290° at 3 knots, visibility 10 statute miles, a few clouds at 4,000 feet agl, temperature 8° C, dew point 1° C, altimeter 30.22 inches of mercury (Hg). Remarks; automated surface observation system, sea level pressure 1021.0-hPa, mountain tops obscured northeast and southeast.

The raw observations surrounding the period:

METAR KABQ 201152Z 25003KT 10SM OVC055 06/01 A3007 RMK AO2 SLP156 70001 T00560006 10061 20044 53011=
METAR KABQ 201252Z 13006KT 10SM BKN050 04/01 A3010 RMK AO2 SLP175 T00440006=
METAR KABQ 201352Z 11004KT 10SM SCT040 03/01 A3015 RMK AO2 SLP192 MTN TOPS OBSC NE AND SE T00330006=
METAR KABQ 201452Z 02004KT 10SM FEW040 07/01 A3019 RMK AO2 SLP199 MTN TOPS OBSC NE AND SE T00720006 53034=

Accident 1545Z

METAR KABQ 201552Z 29003KT 10SM FEW040 08/01 A3022 RMK AO2 SLP210 MTN TOPS OBSC NE AND SE T00780006=
METAR KABQ 201652Z 33018KT 10SM BKN038 09/00 A3024 RMK AO2 SLP216 MTN TOPS OBSC NE AND SE T00940000=
METAR KABQ 201752Z 32015G24KT 10SM FEW038 10/00 A3024 RMK AO2 SLP216 MTN TOPS OBSC NE AND SE T01000000 10106 20033 50016=

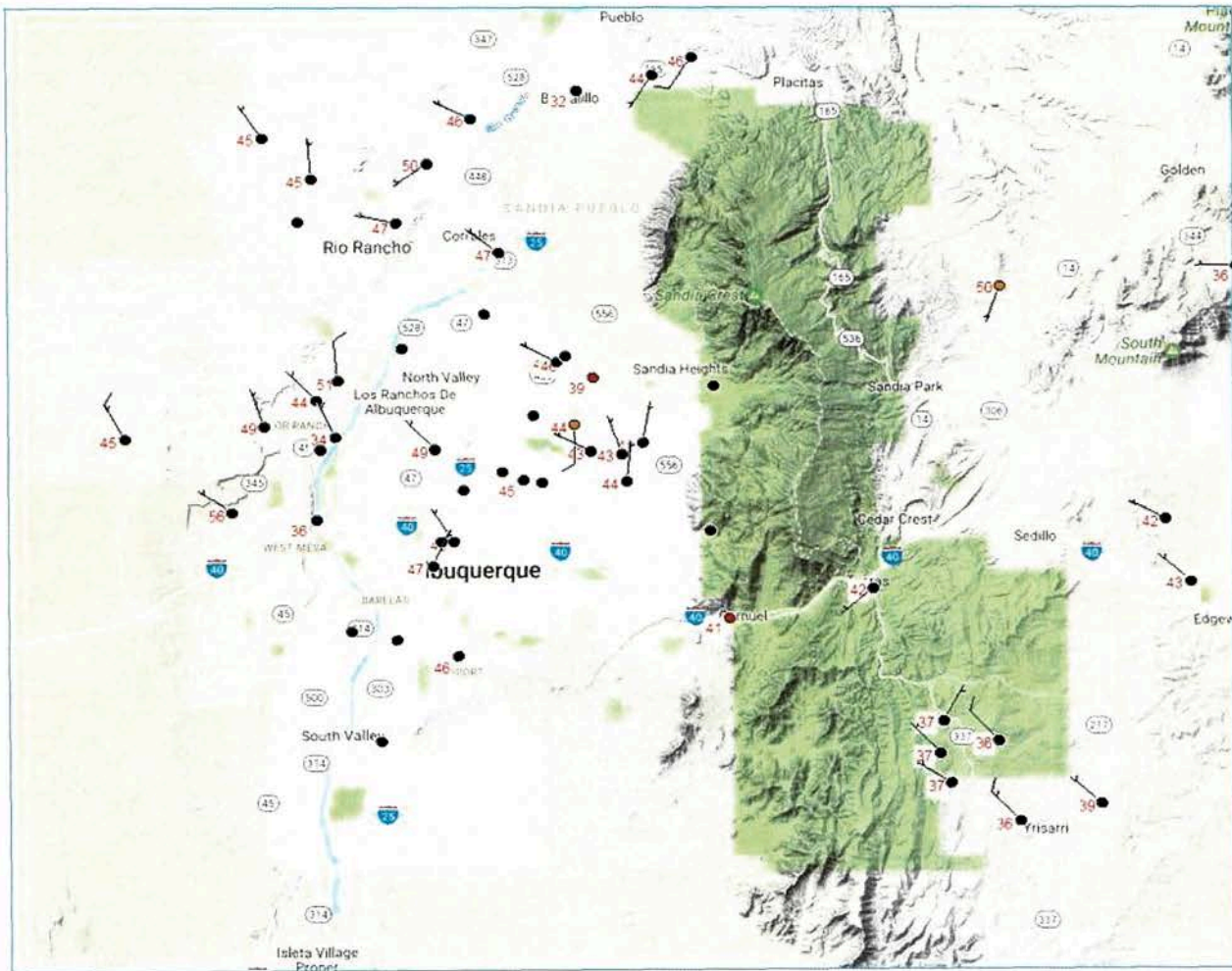
Double Eagle II Airport (KAEG), Albuquerque located approximately 10 miles northwest of KABQ the reports were as follows:

METAR KAEG 201155Z AUTO 28005KT 10SM BKN046 02/00 A3008 RMK AO2 T00221001 10037 20017=
METAR KAEG 201215Z AUTO 31007KT 10SM OVC046 03/00 A3008 RMK AO2 T00271002=
METAR KAEG 201235Z AUTO 32008KT 10SM BKN046 04/00 A3010 RMK AO2 T00351005=
METAR KAEG 201247Z 31007KT 10SM SCT046 03/M01 A3010=
METAR KAEG 201347Z 00000KT 10SM BKN050 02/M01 A3015=
METAR KAEG 201447Z 29004KT 10SM SCT050 06/M01 A3019=
SPECI KAEG 201520Z 32010KT 10SM SCT050 07/00 A3021=
SPECI KAEG 201548Z 33011KT 10SM SCT037 07/00 A3022=
Accident 1545Z
METAR KAEG 201647Z 32018G25KT 10SM SCT033 08/00 A3025=
METAR KAEG 201747Z 32018G25KT 10SM FEW033 09/00 A3024=

Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) current during the period:

TAF KABQ 201131Z 2012/2112 27004KT P6SM BKN050
FM201500 33010KT P6SM SCT050
FM210300 01005KT P6SM SKC=

MesoWest plot of winds over the area at 0850 MST:



Area Forecast —

FAUS45 KPCI 201145

FA5W

-SLCC FA 201145

SYNOPSIS AND VFR CLDS/WX

SYNOPSIS VALID UNTIL 210600

CLDS/WX VALID UNTIL 210000...OTLK VALID 210000-210600

ID MT WY NV UT CO AZ NM

SEE AIRMET SIERRA FOR IFR CONDS AND MTN OBSCN.

TS IMPLY SEV OR GTR TURB SEV ICE LLWS AND IFR CONDS.

NON MSL HGTS DENOTED BY AGL OR CIG.

SYNOPSIS...ALF...12Z UPR TROF FM NERN MT THRU ERN CO TO SW TX...
MOD EWD. 06Z ZONAL FLOW ACRS THE FA AREA WITH A COUPLE OF WK
SHRTWV TROFS EMBD IN THE FLOW. AT THE SFC...12Z CDFNT ALG A
GLD-DEN-30W LAR LN. 06Z LOW INVOF HVR WITH CDFNT ALG A
HVR-HLN-BKE LN. WRMFNT ALG A HVR-DIK ON. CDFNT ALG A 30E INK-TCC
LN...CONTG AS A WRMFNT ALG A TCC-30N PUB LN.

NM

NW QTR...SCT060 BKN080 TOPS 110. TIL 15Z OCNL VIS 4SM BR. BECMG
1720 SCT150 SCT CI. OTLK...VFR.

NERN QTR...SKC. OCNL SCT120. OTLK...VFR.

SW QTR...SCT080-100. OTLK...VFR.

SE QTR...SKC. OCNL SCT100-120. OTLK...VFR.

Wind Forecast – the text wind forecast was as follows:

WINDS ALOFT FORECASTS

DATA BASED ON 201200Z

VALID 201800Z FOR USE 1400-2100Z. TEMPS NEG ABV 24000

FT	3000	6000	9000	12000	18000	24000	30000	34000	39000
ABQ			3423-01	3426-04	3551-15	3473-27	338736	319539	307449

The wind for 9,000 feet was for wind from 340° at 23 knots, with a temperature of -1° C.

Advise if you need additional data.

Donald E. Eick
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Office of Aviation Safety

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Office:

Mobile:

