



Laura Abraham
Air Safety Investigator
Central Region

Date: September 25, 2023

Subject: CEN23LA325 - Balloon Accident in Erie, Colorado

Contact: Christina and David Thoutt

I spoke with Mr. and Mrs. Thoutt regarding the balloon accident they were involved in on July 14, 2023. Mr. and Mrs. Thoutt were two of the seven people in the balloon that day. They said that Mr. Anthony Cochran, the pilot, gave them a thorough safety briefing the morning of the flight. They said that once airborne, the balloon changed direction when the wind shifted and began to move very quickly. Mr. Cochran informed them that they were going to land earlier than planned due to increased wind. He advised them that the basket would most likely tip over upon landing and to brace themselves. Mrs. Thoutt stated that one of the passengers was ejected from the balloon and her hair was caught under the basket. They believed she had minor injuries. Mr. and Mrs. Thoutt were seriously injured and treated at a local hospital.