



## RECORD OF CONVERSATION

**Michael J. Hodges**  
**Air Safety Investigator**  
**General Aviation Accident Investigation Division (AS-20)**

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**Date: April 14, 2015**  
**Person Contacted: Mr. Christopher Locatell (Pilot)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: GAA15CA038**

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### **Narrative:**

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Mr. Locatell in a telephone conversation.

- The accident occurred on 4/12/2015 about 0750 PDT.
- The balloon was an Ultramagic M90, N890VB.
- Mr. Locatell was the pilot of the balloon. The balloon had a pilot and two passengers onboard. The balloon departed from Sportsman Airpark (2S6) in Newburg, Oregon, as a local area flight (sightseeing). No flight plan was filed.
- The balloon was part of a flight of three total balloons and departed about 0705.
- As the balloon was making its approach for landing to an open field, it was getting low by a row of trees. The pilot added heat to make the balloon ascent.
- The pilot reached for the vent line and his hand became entangled in the line. The pilot got his hand free and realized that the descent rate was a bit excessive. The pilot added heat to slow the descent rate.
- During this time, the passengers were in their bracing positions, which they were briefed on prior to the approach.
- The balloon bounced, went up about 10 to 15 feet above ground level, and came back down. When the balloon came back down, the pilot began deflation procedures.
- The pilot landed in an open field (private property) in Sherwood, Oregon.
- The pilot sustained no injuries. The two passengers sustained broken feet (both right) during the landing.
- The pilot verified that there were no pre-impact mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airframe or engine that would have precluded normal operation.