

I took off about 7 AM, on Nov 9th, from the Wilson Creek Winery. I had a one hour uneventful flight. A customer asked about the liquid dripping from my burner during flight, and I informed him/her it was just condensation buildup because of the heating of the air. Condensation dripping from the burner is normal for Balloon Works systems. I landed in a small field with plenty of room, but the field was fenced. So I off loaded some passengers, brought the balloon to about a three foot height and we walked the balloon into an adjacent field that was adequate to deflate the balloon and load it back onto the trailer. It was a typical balloon recovery process until the fire. I landed my balloon on the trailer and we prepared to deflate the envelope. I left some passengers in the basket with me for counterweight, so the basket would not slide off the trailer as my crew pulled the envelope over to deflate it. The fire had a profound effect on me so it is hard to remember details of my actions that morning just prior to the event. I shut off the pilot light of the burner, and took the burner down from the flight position to put it in the storage bag attached to the side of the basket. While putting the burner in the bag, I did bump the blast valve and propane did come out of the burner. The propane ignited. I do not know what the ignition source was.

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