

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD PILOT/OPERATOR AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT

This form to be used for reporting civil and public aircraft accidents and incidents

BASIC INFORMATION

Accident/Incident Location

Nearest City/Place: Las Cruces State: NM

ZIP: 88007 Country: United States of America

Latitude: 32.20611 Longitude: -106.80281

(Enter in decimal degrees or degrees:minutes:seconds)

Accident/Incident Date/Time

Date: 9/4/2022 Local Time: 7:15 am

mm/dd/yyyy

Time Zone: MDT

Collision with Other Aircraft: ☐ Midair ☐ On-ground ☒ None

AIRCRAFT INFORMATION

Registration Number: 7067F

Manufacturer: Firefly Balloons

Model: Firefly 8B-15

Serial Number: F8B-566

Year of Manufacture: 1998

Amateur-Built: ☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes: ☐ Kit/Plans ☐ Original Design Make: _____

- ☐ IFR-Equipped and Certified
☐ Commercial Space Flight
☐ Unmanned Aircraft

Maximum Gross Weight: _____ lbs

Weight at Time of Accident/Incident: _____ lbs

Number of Seats: N/A Flight Crew Seats: _____

Cabin Crew Seats: _____ Passenger Seats: _____

Number of Engines: 1, burner

Category of Aircraft

- ☐ Airplane
☐ Balloon
☐ Blimp/Dirigible
☐ Glider
☐ Gyroplane
☐ Helicopter
☐ Powered Lift
☐ Rocket
☐ Ultralight
☐ Unknown

Type of Airworthiness Certificate

(Check all that apply)

Standard

- ☐ Normal
☐ Aerobatic
☒ Balloon
☐ Commuter
☐ Transport
☐ Utility

Special

- ☐ Restricted
☐ Limited
☐ Provisional
☐ Special Flight
☐ Experimental
☐ Special Light-Sport
☐ Experimental Light-Sport

- ☐ Certificate of Authorization or Waiver (COA)
☐ None ☐ Unknown

Landing Gear

(Check all that apply)

☐ Retractable

- ☐ Tricycle ☐ Tailwheel
☐ Amphibian ☐ High Skid
☐ Emergency Float ☐ Skid
☐ Float ☐ Ski
☐ Hull ☐ Ski/Wheel

☐ Other Launch/Recovery System

- ☒ None ☐ Unknown

Engine Type (Select one)

- ☐ Reciprocating ☐ Liquid Rocket
☐ Turbo Shaft ☐ Solid Rocket
☐ Turbo Prop ☐ Hybrid Rocket
☐ Turbo Jet ☐ None
☐ Turbo Fan ☐ Unknown
☐ Electric

Fuel System Type (Reciprocating)

- ☐ Carburetor ☐ Fuel-Injected

Engine	Engine Manufacturer	Engine Model/Series	Manufacturer's Serial Number	Date of Mfg. <i>mm/dd/yyyy</i>	Rated Power ☐ Horsepower or ☐ lbs of Thrust	Total Time (hours)	Time Since: Inspection (hours)	Overhaul (hours)
Eng. 1	Hot Air Balloon Burner	F1	130	10/26/1998		360	14.5	
Eng. 2								
Eng. 3								
Eng. 4								

Last Inspection Type

- ☐ 100-Hour ☐ Continuous Airworthiness
☐ AAIP ☐ Conditional Inspection
☒ Annual ☐ Unknown

Date Last Inspection: 9/23/2021
mm/dd/yyyy

Airframe Total Time: 360.25 hrs

hours measured at (Select one)

- ☐ Last Inspection ☒ Time of Accident/Incident

Type of Maintenance Program (Select one)

- ☒ Annual
☐ Conditional (Amateur-built only)
☐ Manufacturer's Inspection Program
☐ Other Approved Inspection Program (AAIP)
☐ Continuous Airworthiness
☐ Other, specify: _____

Description of Fire Extinguishing System

- ☐ None
☐ Specify: _____

Propeller 1

- ☐ Fixed Pitch
☐ Controllable Pitch
☐ Ground Adjustable

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____

Propeller 2

- ☐ Fixed Pitch
☐ Controllable Pitch
☐ Ground Adjustable

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____

ELT Installed: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes:

ELT Manufacturer: _____

Model or Part No.: _____

TSO No.: ☐ C91 (121.5 MHz) ☐ C91a (121.5 MHz)
☐ C126 (406 MHz)

Was ELT still mounted in aircraft? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Was ELT still connected to antenna? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Did ELT Activate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If activated:

Did ELT Aid in Locating Aircraft? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If not activated:

- Indicate Reason: ☐ Impact Damage
☐ Fire Damage
☐ Battery Expired/Damaged
☐ Unknown

Additional Equipment (Check all that apply)

- ☐ ADS-B
☐ Airframe Parachute
☐ Angle of Attack Indicator
☐ Autopilot
☐ Data Recorder
☐ Electronic Flight Bag or Handheld Device
☐ Electronic Multifunction Display
☐ Electronic Primary Flight Display
☐ Handheld GPS
☐ Heads Up Display
☐ Onboard Weather
☐ Satellite Tracking Device
☐ Stall Warning System
☐ Video Recording Device
☐ Other, Specify: _____

OWNER/OPERATOR INFORMATION**Registered Aircraft Owner**Name: Brian A SmithCity: AlbuquerqueState: NMZIP: 87108Fractional Ownership Aircraft: ☐ Yes ☒ NoCountry: USA**Operator of Aircraft**☒ Same As Registered Owner☒ Same Address as Registered Owner

Name: _____

City: _____

Doing Business As: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Air Carrier/Operator Designator (4 Character Code): _____

Country: _____

Operating Certificates Held

(Check all that apply)

- ☒ None
☐ Flag Carrier Operating Certificate (FAR 121)
☐ Supplemental
☐ Air Cargo
☐ Foreign Air Carriers (FAR 129)
☐ Rotorcraft External Load (FAR 133)
☐ Commuter Air Carrier (FAR 135)
☐ On-Demand Air Taxi (FAR 135)
☐ Commercial Air Tour (FAR 136)
☐ Agricultural Aircraft (FAR 137)
☐ Pilot School (FAR 141)
☐ Certificate of Authorization or Waiver (COA)
☐ Commercial Space Transportation
Experimental Permit
☐ Commercial Space Transportation License
☐ Other Operator of Large Aircraft

Regulation Flight Conducted Under

- ☐ FAR 91 ☐ FAR 129 ☐ FAR 415
☐ FAR 103 ☐ FAR 133 ☐ FAR 431
☐ FAR 121 ☐ FAR 135 ☐ FAR 435
☐ FAR 125 ☐ FAR 137 ☐ FAR 437
- ☐ FAR 91 Special Flight
☐ Non-US, Commercial
☐ Non-US, Non-commercial
- ☐ Public Aircraft (Select one)
☐ Armed Forces
☐ Federal
☐ State
☐ Local
☐ Unknown

Revenue Operation for FAR 121, 125, 129, 135

(Select one for each group)

- ☐ Scheduled or Commuter ☐ Domestic
☐ Non-Scheduled or Air Taxi ☐ International
- ☐ Passenger
☐ Cargo
☐ Mail Contract Only

Purpose of Flight for FAR 91, 103, 133, 137

(Select one)

- ☐ Aerial Application ☐ Firefighting ☐ Unknown
☐ Aerial Observation ☐ Flight Test
☐ Air Drop ☐ Glider Tow
☐ Air Race/Show ☐ Instructional
☐ Banner Tow ☐ Other Work Use
☐ Business ☐ Personal
☐ Executive/Corporate ☐ Positioning
☐ External Load ☐ Skydiving
☐ Ferry

Revenue Sightseeing Flight☐ Yes ☐ No**Air Medical Flight**☐ Yes ☐ No**AIRPORT INFORMATION (Fill in if accident/incident occurred on approach, landing, takeoff, departure, or within 3 miles of an airport)**

Airport Name: _____

Distance From Airport Center: _____ sm

Airport Identifier: _____

Direction From Airport: _____ degrees true

Proximity to Airport: ☐ Off Airport/Airstrip ☐ On Airport/Airstrip ☐ N/A

Airport Elevation: _____ ft. msl

Runway Information

Runway ID: _____ (L/R/C) Length: _____ ft Width: _____ ft

Runway/Landing Surface (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Asphalt ☐ Grass/Turf ☐ Macadam ☐ Water
☐ Concrete ☐ Gravel ☐ Metal/Wood
☐ Dirt ☐ Ice ☐ Snow ☐ Unknown

Condition of Runway/Landing Surface (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Dry ☐ Snow-Compacted ☐ Water-Calm
☐ Holes ☐ Snow-Crusted ☐ Water-Choppy
☐ Ice Covered ☐ Snow-Dry ☐ Water-Glassy
☐ Rough ☐ Snow-Wet ☐ Wet
☐ Rubber Deposits ☒ Soft
☐ Slush-Covered ☐ Vegetation ☐ Unknown

Approach/Departure Segment (Select one)

- ☐ Taxi ☐ VFR Departure ☐ On Instrument Approach ☐ Downwind ☐ Low Approach
☐ Takeoff ☐ IFR Departure Procedure/Clearance ☐ Landing ☐ Base ☐ Go Around
☐ Initial Climb ☐ Aborted Landing (after touchdown)
☐ Crosswind ☐ Unknown

IFR Approach (Check all that apply)

- ☐ None
☐ ADF/NDB ☐ PAR ☐ MLS ☐ Practice
☐ SDF ☐ Sidestep ☐ LDA ☐ GPS
☐ VOR/TVOR ☐ ILS ☐ ASR
☐ VOR/DME ☐ Localizer Only ☐ Visual
☐ TACAN ☐ LOC-back course ☐ Contact
☐ RNAV ☐ Circling
☐ Unknown

VFR Approach (Check all that apply)

- ☐ None
☐ Traffic Pattern ☐ Stop and Go
☐ Straight-In ☐ Touch and Go
☐ Valley/Terrain Following ☐ Simulated Forced Landing
☐ Go Around ☐ Forced Landing
☒ Full Stop ☐ Precautionary Landing
☐ Unknown

"FLIGHT CREWMEMBER 1" INFORMATION

"Flight Crewmember 1" Responsibilities at the Time of Accident/Incident

☒ Pilot
☐ Co-Pilot
☐ Student Pilot
☐ Flight Instructor
☐ Check Pilot
☐ Flight Engineer
☐ Other Flight Crew

"Flight Crewmember 1" was pilot flying
☒ Yes
☐ No

"Flight Crewmember 1" Identification

First Name: Brian

City of Residence: Albuquerque

Middle Initial: A

State: NM ZIP: 87108

Last Name: Smith

Country: USA

Age at time of Accident/Incident: 40 Date of Birth: 982 mm/dd/yyyy

Certificate Number:

Degree of Injury

☒ None
☐ Fatal
☐ Minor
☐ Unknown
☐ Serious

Seat Occupied

☐ Left
☐ Front
☒ Unknown
☐ Right
☐ Rear
☐ Center
☐ Single

Restraint Type

Available
☒ None
☐ Lap only
☐ 3-point
☐ 4-point
☐ 5-point
☐ Unknown
Used
☐ None
☐ Lap only
☐ 3-point
☐ 4-point
☐ 5-point
☐ Unknown

Inflatable Restraints

☒ Not Installed
☐ Installed
☐ Not Deployed
☐ Deployed
☐ Unknown

Pilot Certificate(s) (Check all that apply)

☐ None
☐ Flight Instructor
☒ Commercial
☐ US Military
☐ Private
☐ Recreational
☐ Airline Transport
☐ Foreign
☐ Student
☐ Sport
☐ Flight Engineer

Principal Occupation

☐ Pilot
☒ Other
☐ Unknown

Medical Certificate

☒ None
☐ Class 3
☐ Class 1
☐ Driver's License (Sport Pilot only)
☐ Class 2
☐ Unknown

Medical Certificate Validity

☐ Without limitations/waivers
☐ Unknown
☐ With limitations/waivers
☒ N/A
☐ Special Issuance

Date of Last Medical

mm/dd/yyyy

Medical Certificate Limitations

None

Medical Certificate Special Issuance

None

Date of Last Flight Review or Equivalent, Including FAR 121/135 Checks:

9/25/2024
mm/dd/yyyy

Flight Review Aircraft

Make: Firefly

Model: F8B

Airplane Rating(s)

(Check all that apply)

☒ None
☐ Single-Engine Land
☐ Single-Engine Sea
☐ Multiengine Land
☐ Multiengine Sea

Other Aircraft Rating(s)

(Check all that apply)

☐ None
☐ Airship
☒ Balloon
☐ Glider
☐ Gyroplane
☐ Helicopter
☐ Powered Lift

Instrument Rating(s)

(Check all that apply)

☒ None
☐ Airplane
☐ Helicopter
☐ Powered Lift

Instructor Rating(s)

(Check all that apply)

☐ None
☐ Instrument Airplane
☐ Airplane Single-Engine
☐ Instrument Helicopter
☐ Airplane Multi-Engine
☐ Helicopter
☐ Gyroplane
☐ Glider
☐ Powered Lift
☐ Sport

Type Ratings

Lighter Than Air Free Balloon - Commercial

Student Endorsements (Include dates)

Flight Time (Enter appropriate number of hours in each box)	All Aircraft	This Make & Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Multiengine	Night	Instrument		Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air
						Actual	Simulated			
Total Time	246	15								246
Pilot in Command (PIC)	228									228
Time as Instructor	56									56
This Make/Model										
Last 90 Days	2									2
Last 30 Days	0.5									0.5
Last 24 Hours										

"FLIGHT CREWMEMBER 2" INFORMATION																																																																																																				
"Flight Crewmember 2" Responsibilities at the Time of Accident/Incident ☐ Pilot ☐ Co-Pilot ☐ Student Pilot ☐ Flight Instructor ☐ Check Pilot ☐ Flight Engineer ☐ Other Flight Crew																																																																																																				
"Flight Crewmember 2" was pilot flying ☐ Yes ☐ No																																																																																																				
"Flight Crewmember 2" Identification First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____ City of Residence: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Country: _____ Age at time of Accident/Incident: _____ Date of Birth: _____ mm/dd/yyyy Certificate Number: _____																																																																																																				
Degree of Injury ☐ None ☐ Fatal ☐ Minor ☐ Unknown ☐ Serious		Seat Occupied ☐ Left ☐ Front ☐ Unknown ☐ Right ☐ Rear ☐ Center ☐ Single			Restraint Type Available ☐ None ☐ Lap only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown Used ☐ None ☐ Lap only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown			Inflatable Restraints ☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown																																																																																												
Pilot Certificate(s) <i>(Check all that apply)</i> ☐ None ☐ Flight Instructor ☐ Commercial ☐ US Military ☐ Private ☐ Recreational ☐ Airline Transport ☐ Foreign ☐ Student ☐ Sport ☐ Flight Engineer					Medical Certificate Validity ☐ Without limitations/waivers ☐ Unknown ☐ With limitations/waivers ☐ N/A ☐ Special Issuance			Date of Last Medical _____ mm/dd/yyyy																																																																																												
Principal Occupation ☐ Pilot ☐ Other ☐ Unknown																																																																																																				
Medical Certificate ☐ None ☐ Class 3 ☐ Class 1 ☐ Driver's License (Sport Pilot only) ☐ Class 2 ☐ Unknown																																																																																																				
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Date of Last Flight Review or Equivalent, Including FAR 121/135 Checks: _____ mm/dd/yyyy					Flight Review Aircraft Make: _____ Model: _____																																																																																															
Airplane Rating(s) <i>(Check all that apply)</i> ☐ None ☐ Single-Engine Land ☐ Single-Engine Sea ☐ Multiengine Land ☐ Multiengine Sea		Other Aircraft Rating(s) <i>(Check all that apply)</i> ☐ None ☐ Airship ☐ Balloon ☐ Glider ☐ Gyroplane ☐ Helicopter ☐ Powered Lift		Instrument Rating(s) <i>(Check all that apply)</i> ☐ None ☐ Airplane ☐ Helicopter ☐ Powered Lift		Instructor Rating(s) <i>(Check all that apply)</i> ☐ None ☐ Airplane Single-Engine ☐ Airplane Multi-Engine ☐ Gyroplane ☐ Powered Lift ☐ Instrument Airplane ☐ Instrument Helicopter ☐ Helicopter ☐ Glider ☐ Sport																																																																																														
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<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2" style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Flight Time (Enter appropriate number of hours in each box)</th> <th rowspan="2" style="padding: 5px;">All Aircraft</th> <th rowspan="2" style="padding: 5px;">This Make & Model</th> <th rowspan="2" style="padding: 5px;">Airplane Single Engine</th> <th rowspan="2" style="padding: 5px;">Airplane Multiengine</th> <th rowspan="2" style="padding: 5px;">Night</th> <th colspan="2" style="padding: 5px;">Instrument</th> <th rowspan="2" style="padding: 5px;">Rotorcraft</th> <th rowspan="2" style="padding: 5px;">Glider</th> <th rowspan="2" style="padding: 5px;">Lighter Than Air</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="padding: 5px;">Actual</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">Simulated</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Total Time</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Pilot in Command (PIC)</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Time as Instructor</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">This Make/Model</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Last 90 Days</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Last 30 Days</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Last 24 Hours</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>											Flight Time (Enter appropriate number of hours in each box)	All Aircraft	This Make & Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Multiengine	Night	Instrument		Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air	Actual	Simulated	Total Time											Pilot in Command (PIC)											Time as Instructor											This Make/Model											Last 90 Days											Last 30 Days											Last 24 Hours										
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ADDITIONAL FLIGHT CREWMEMBERS (Exclusive of cabin crew, complete the following information)						
Crew Name and Address First Name: _____ City of Residence: _____ Middle Initial: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Last Name: _____ Country: _____			Seat Occupied ☐ Left ☐ Front ☐ Center ☐ Rear ☐ Right ☐ Single ☐ Unknown		Injury ☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown	
Pilot Certificate(s) (Check all that apply) ☐ None ☐ Flight Instructor ☐ Private ☐ Recreational ☐ Student ☐ Sport ☐ Commercial ☐ US Military ☐ Airline Transport ☐ Foreign ☐ Flight Engineer			Restraint Type: Available ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown Used ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown		Inflatable Restraints ☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown	
Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft? ☐ Yes ☐ No			Total Flight Time at the Time of this Accident/Incident: _____ hrs			
Crew Name and Address First Name: _____ City of Residence: _____ Middle Initial: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Last Name: _____ Country: _____			Seat Occupied ☐ Left ☐ Front ☐ Center ☐ Rear ☐ Right ☐ Single ☐ Unknown		Injury ☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown	
Pilot Certificate(s) (Check all that apply) ☐ None ☐ Flight Instructor ☐ Private ☐ Recreational ☐ Student ☐ Sport ☐ Commercial ☐ US Military ☐ Airline Transport ☐ Foreign ☐ Flight Engineer			Restraint Type: Available ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown Used ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown		Inflatable Restraints ☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown	
Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft? ☐ Yes ☐ No			Total Flight Time at the Time of this Accident/Incident: _____ hrs			
PASSENGER(S) / OTHER PERSONNEL (Include cabin crew; continue on separate sheet if necessary)						
Name and Address	Seat	Injury	Restraint Type	Inflatable Restraints	Age	
First Name: <u>Sandy</u> City: <u>Las Cruces</u> Middle Initial: _____ State: <u>NM</u> ZIP: <u>88012</u> Last Name: <u>Farmer</u> Country: <u>USA</u> ☐ Crew ☒ Passenger ☐ Other	☐ Left ☐ Center ☐ Right ☐ Unknown Row: _____	☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown	Available ☒ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown Used ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	☒ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown	☐ Under 5 years <i>If Under 5,</i> ☐ Child Restraint ☐ Lap-Held ☐ Unknown	
First Name: <u>Kenneth</u> City: <u>Las Cruces</u> Middle Initial: _____ State: <u>NM</u> ZIP: <u>88012</u> Last Name: <u>Farmer</u> Country: <u>USA</u> ☐ Crew ☒ Passenger ☐ Other	☐ Left ☐ Center ☐ Right ☐ Unknown Row: _____	☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown	Available ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown Used ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	☒ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown	☐ Under 5 years <i>If Under 5,</i> ☐ Child Restraint ☐ Lap-Held ☐ Unknown	
First Name: _____ City: _____ Middle Initial: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Last Name: _____ Country: _____ ☐ Crew ☐ Passenger ☐ Other	☐ Left ☐ Center ☐ Right ☐ Unknown Row: _____	☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown	Available ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown Used ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown	☐ Under 5 years <i>If Under 5,</i> ☐ Child Restraint ☐ Lap-Held ☐ Unknown	
First Name: _____ City: _____ Middle Initial: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Last Name: _____ Country: _____ ☐ Crew ☐ Passenger ☐ Other	☐ Left ☐ Center ☐ Right ☐ Unknown Row: _____	☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown	Available ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown Used ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown	☐ Under 5 years <i>If Under 5,</i> ☐ Child Restraint ☐ Lap-Held ☐ Unknown	

FLIGHT ITINERARY INFORMATION				
Last Departure Point Airport ID: _____ City: <u>Las Cruces</u> State: <u>NM</u> Country: <u>USA</u>	Time of Departure Time: <u>7:00 am</u> Time Zone: <u>MDT</u>	Destination Airport ID: _____ City: <u>Las Cruces</u> State: <u>NM</u> Country: <u>USA</u>	Type Flight Plan Filed ☐ None ☐ Company VFR ☐ Military VFR ☐ VFR ☐ VFR/IFR ☐ IFR ☐ Unknown Activated? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown	
Type of ATC Clearance/Service (Check all that apply) ☒ None ☐ VFR ☐ Special VFR ☐ IFR ☐ Special IFR ☐ VFR On Top ☐ VFR Flight Following ☐ Traffic Advisory ☐ Cruise ☐ Unknown / NA				
Airspace where the accident/incident occurred (Check all that apply) ☐ Class A ☐ Class B ☐ Class C ☐ Class D ☐ Class E ☒ Class G ☐ Demo Area ☐ Warning Area ☐ Prohibited Area ☐ Restricted Area ☐ Military Operations Area (MOA) ☐ Airport Advisory Area ☐ Jet Training Area ☐ TRSA ☐ FAR 93 ☐ Special ☐ Air Traffic Control Area ☐ Unknown				Altitude of In-Flight Occurrence: _____ ft msl
WEATHER INFORMATION AT THE ACCIDENT/INCIDENT SITE				
Source of Pilot Weather Information (Check all that apply) ☐ National Weather Service ☐ Flight Service Station ☐ TV/Radio ☐ Automated Report ☒ Commercial Weather Service (DUATS) ☐ On-Board Weather ☐ Company ☐ Military ☐ Internet ☐ None ☐ Unknown		Weather Observation Facility Facility ID: <u>KLRU</u> Observation Time: <u>6:30 am</u> Time Zone: <u>GMT</u> Distance from Accident Site: <u>9</u> nm Direction from Accident Site: _____ degrees true		
Basic Conditions ☐ VMC ☐ IMC ☐ Unknown	Light Condition ☐ Dawn ☐ Day ☐ Dusk ☐ Night ☐ Dark Night ☐ Bright Night ☐ Unknown			
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition ☒ Clear ☐ Few ☐ Partial Obscuration ☐ Scattered ☐ Thin Broken ☐ Thin Overcast ☐ Unknown	Ceiling ☒ None (Clear) ☐ Broken ☐ Overcast ☐ Obscured ☐ Indefinite ☐ Unknown	Temperature: _____ (C) or <u>65</u> (F) Dew Point: _____ (C) or <u>75</u> (F) Altimeter Setting: _____ in. Hg or _____ MB		
Lowest Cloud Condition Height _____ ft agl		Ceiling Height _____ ft agl		
Wind Direction ☐ Variable -or- Direction: <u>0</u> degrees true	Wind Speed ☐ Calm ☐ Light and Variable -or- Speed: <u>11</u> kts	Wind Gusts ☐ Not Gusting -or- Speed: _____ kts	Visibility <u>10</u> miles RVR: _____ feet RVV: _____ miles Density Altitude: _____ ft	
Intensity of Precipitation ☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Heavy ☒ N/A ☐ Unknown	Type of Precipitation (Check all that apply) ☒ None ☐ Rain ☐ Snow ☐ Hail ☐ Rain Showers ☐ Drizzle ☐ Ice Pellets ☐ Snow Pellets ☐ Snow Grains ☐ Ice Crystals ☐ Freezing Rain ☐ Snow Shower ☐ Ice Pellets Shower ☐ Freezing Drizzle		Restriction to Visibility (Check all that apply) ☒ None ☐ Blowing Dust ☐ Blowing Sand ☐ Blowing Snow ☐ Blowing Spray ☐ Dust ☐ Fog ☐ Ground Fog ☐ Haze ☐ Ice Fog ☐ Smoke ☐ Unknown	
Icing Forecast Amount ☒ None ☐ Trace ☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Severe ☐ Unknown Type ☐ N/A ☐ Rime ☐ Clear ☐ Mixed ☐ Unknown	Icing Actual Amount ☐ None ☐ Trace ☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Severe ☐ Unknown Type ☐ N/A ☐ Rime ☐ Clear ☐ Mixed ☐ Unknown		Turbulence Type (Check all that apply) ☒ None ☐ Clear Air ☐ Terrain-Induced ☐ Convective Turbulence Severity ☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Severe ☐ Extreme	
NOTAMs (D and FDC), AIRMETs, SIGMETs, PIREPs in effect at the time of the accident/incident: 				

DAMAGE TO AIRCRAFT AND OTHER PROPERTY**Aircraft Damage**

- ☒ None ☐ Substantial
☐ Minor ☐ Destroyed
 ☐ Unknown

Aircraft Fire

- ☒ None ☐ Both Ground and In-Flight
☐ In-Flight ☐ Fire at Unknown Time
☐ On-Ground ☐ Unknown

Aircraft Explosion

- ☒ None ☐ Both Ground and In-Flight
☐ In-Flight ☐ Explosion at Unknown Time
☐ On-Ground ☐ Unknown

Description of Damage to Aircraft and Other Property (Use additional sheet if necessary)

None

NARRATIVE HISTORY OF FLIGHT (Please type or print in Ink)

Describe what occurred in chronological order, including circumstances leading to and nature of accident/incident. Describe terrain and include wreckage distribution sketch if pertinent. Attach extra sheets if needed. State departure time and location, services obtained, and intended destination. Provide as much detail as possible.

Commercial LTA Pilot Brian Smith, along with 12 crewmembers, arrived at launchsite- South parking lot of Mayfield High School in northwestern Las Cruces, New Mexico at 6:30 am on Sunday 9/4/2022

Brian called for a weather briefing via Leidos 1-800 WX Brief (for Firefly Balloons hot air balloon N7067F involved in incident) at 6:30 am.

Ground winds at Las Cruces International Airport (KLRU) at time of briefing were reported to be 0 knots

Brian remembers winds aloft forecast: 6000 feet MSL- 11 knots at 70°, 9000 feet MSL- 20 knots at 100°

Pilot-owned helium tank used for pilot balloon (pibal) to gauge winds at altitude, was found to be empty, so no pibal was able to be released

Ground winds at launchsite were observed to be approximately 1-2 knots

Crew briefings were given

Brian conducted preflight checks of balloon gondola, fuel system, fuel pressurization (150 psi) and performed burner checks (both main blastvalve and backburner Fire-2), with no anomalies noted

Set up & connection of balloon envelope to gondola; cold inflation; hot inflation

Balloon upright and standing normally, inflation valve tabs for parachute top were released, valve operated normally

Altimeter was set for field elevation of 4,000 MSL, pyrometer was operating normally

Brian invited passengers Sandy and Kenneth Farmer onboard. Both are experienced balloon crewmembers and have flown many times in many makes & models of balloons

Passenger briefing was given prior to launch

Brian heated balloon to buoyancy and released tie-off line to chase truck, launch to altitude

Level flight at altitude (approximately 300 feet AGL) with winds at altitude approximately 10 knots due south

Controlled but approximately 200 fpm descending approach to landing in flat open field due south approximately 1/4 mile from launchsite
Hard landing was sustained in the middle of the field with 3 bounces, approximately 50 feet apart until balloon movement was arrested with the inflation valveline

Passenger Sandy Farmer, who was standing in the front portion of the triangular-shaped gondola, twisted counterclockwise upon first impact, and dropped to floor of the gondola on her knees, and advised Brian that her left knee was injured and she could not stand

Passenger Kenneth Farmer was uninjured

Brian was uninjured at the time, but noticed his right inner knee had sustained a slight impact, likely with one of the gondola's fuel tanks adjacent to his position in the gondola, no medical assistance required or asked for

Brian stabilized the balloon in the landing field, but due to Sandy not being able to stand, deflated the balloon with no further flight, with the assistance of crewmembers

Sandy was gently helped out of the balloon gondola, then loaded into a vehicle to be taken to an urgent care facility

Sandy's initial X-rays that morning did not indicate any broken bones

An MRI on Sandy's lower extremities and torso on Monday 9/5/2022 indicated a broken right rib (likely a result of impact onto front padded gondola bolster), hairline fractured left bone below the knee.

Two bloodclots in her legs were also found, but were reported to likely already be present prior to the balloon flight and unrelated to the hard landing incident

Sandy was admitted to Mountain View Hospital in Las Cruces, NM on Monday 9/5/2022, for observation and physical therapy to attempt walking (with aid of a walker) prior to release. She was released on Friday 9/9/2022

RECOMMENDATION (How could this accident/incident have been prevented?)

Operator/Owner Safety Recommendation

If helium pibal had been released, approximately 10 knot winds to the south at approximately 300 feet AGL (observed after launch to altitude) could possibly have been noted prior to inflation, and balloon flight would likely have been postponed or aborted prior to any equipment being offloaded from the chasetruck

Upon reflection & review, Brian neglected to include in his passenger briefing, the technique of bending of knees upon landing to attempt to absorb the shock of landings. While this technique may not have helped in this hard landing, passengers Sandy & Kenneth may have been more aware of it.

MECHANICAL MALFUNCTION/FAILURE (If more space is needed, continue on separate sheet)Was there Mechanical Malfunction/Failure? ☐ Yes ☒ No

(If yes, list the name of the part, manufacturer, part no., serial no., and describe the failure.)

Total Time/Cycles
On Part

_____ Hours

_____ Cycles

Time Since This Part
Inspected/Overhauled

_____ Hours

FUEL & SERVICES INFORMATION

Fuel on Board at Last Takeoff

(Convert from pounds, as necessary)

40 _____ Gallons

Fuel Type

☐ 80/87☐ 115/145☐ Jet B☒ Other, specify Propane☐ 100 Low Lead☐ Jet A☐ JP8☐ 100/130☐ Jet A-1☐ Automotive

Other Services, if Any, Prior to Departure

EVACUATION OF AIRCRAFTWas an emergency evacuation of the aircraft performed? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Method of Exit – Describe how the occupants exited and how many occupants evacuated each location

Balloon was deflated slowly and carefully, to allow passenger Sandy Farmer to lay down with the gondola on its side, to try to limit any additional stress on her legs and injured left knee

OTHER AIRCRAFT – COLLISION (If air or ground collision occurred, complete this section for other aircraft)

Aircraft Registration Number

Manufacturer: _____

Damage to Other Aircraft

Model: _____

☐ Destroyed☐ Minor☐ Substantial☐ None

Registered Owner of Other Aircraft

Name: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Country: _____

Pilot of Other Aircraft

Name: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Country: _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Please type or print in ink)

Use this space if additional space is needed for any answers.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

Date of this Report

9/13/2022

mm/dd/yyyy

Name of Pilot/Operator: Brian A Smith

Signature: _____

-- or --

☒ Check here to electronically sign this document

If a Person Other than Pilot/Operator is Filing Report

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

-- or --

☐ Check here to electronically sign this document

FOR NTSB USE ONLY

NTSB Accident/Incident No.

WPR22LA368

Reviewed by NTSB Regional Office

WPR

Name of Investigator

Kristyn Blocher

Date Report Received

9/19/22