

Witness statement: Cory Steplock
Incident involving pilot: Patricia Newlin
7-13-2024

We were parked on a hill watching the pilot I was crewing for and waiting for him to land. Pat was above us and coming in for a landing to the field to your right.

We were watching her she was approximately 50-75 yard in front of us as Pat came in for her landing, point of balloon hit ground first, then basket laid over backwards and pilot came out of the basket, basket rolled over her and appeared to fold pilot in half over backwards, the basket stood up, went back up about 10 feet then came back to ground hard, at that point the passenger came out of basket, appearing to eject herself from basket, the balloon then went back to Airbourne. The balloon only appeared to go back up about 100-150 feet in the air then across to come to rest where it was retrieved , it hit the ground and appeared to come down hard and skid to a stop laying itself over and coming to a stop

I got out of the vehicle and ran to the pilot after the first contact with the ground and went to the pilot being first to make and render aide. Once reaching the pilot... I confirmed she was responsive and made sure she did not move, did not move her. Asked the crowd that had gathered to call 911. The passenger walked over to me and Pat, asked if she was ok and if there was anyone else in the balloon.

Passenger responded possibly was her son in basket and then realized that her son was not in basket. Another lady came and offered to stay with them until emergency response arrived. I left to retrieve the balloon I was chasing which landed in the same field that Pat's balloon came to rest in.

While the pilot I was chasing was waiting on us to get to him, I believe he went and turned the fuel off in the balloon.

To Whom it Concerns:

The Casper Balloon Roundup event on Saturday morning from Dee Gwins view.

We are chasing for Plmloco (I am in the passenger seat) and we turn a corner near Buffalo Wild wings near the mall and look into the sky to see the Riverton balloon flat on the side it was moving toward, as if the balloon hit an invisible wall. Then the opposite side started to suck in quickly. Looked as if was still trying to put small puffs of heat into but wasn't successful. Then all of a sudden just dropped and was out of my sight.

Dee Gwin

To Whom it Concerns:

The Casper Balloon Roundup on Saturday as seen from Fletcher Gwin.

We are crewing for Plmloco and i am in the back of a truck when we stop near the mall to prepare for our pilots landing. As I stand up i see the Riverton Balloon collapse and start to descend very quickly and hit the ground hard and pop up and swinging badly like a pendulum. Then it dropped again out of sight.

Fletcher Gwin