

No: 10/91

Ref: EW/G91/08/27

Category: 5

Aircraft Type and Registration: Thunder and Colt 69A Hot Air Balloon, G-SNAX

No & Type of Engines: None

Year of Manufacture: 1990

Date & Time (UTC): 18 August 1991 at 1200 hrs

Location: Meadow Park, Edinburgh

Type of Flight: Aerial work

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Others - 1 (serious)

Nature of Damage: None

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence (Balloons)
with Instructor rating

Commander's Age: 43 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 572 hours (all on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The balloon was tethered for its function as a vehicle for advertising. The two upwind lines were each secured to a tree and the downwind line to the front of a Ford Transit van. This arrangement was stable with the basket between 20 and 30 feet agl. Members of the public were kept at a safe distance from the balloon by the pilot, and from the tether lines by two ground crew.

The wind was from the north-west at about 7 kt with gusts to 10 kt. One such gust put a load on the downwind line which resulted in a forward movement of the van of about 1 foot. Unseen by the handling personnel, a 3 year old boy had crawled under the rear of the van and, when it moved, the wheel struck his right forearm. Alerted by the boy's screams the pilot immediately "ripped out" and landed. He isolated the fuel system and went to the scene. A member of the public had extricated the child who, it was reported, appeared to have been unsupervised at the time of the accident.

A simple fracture of the right forearm was diagnosed and, after treatment, the boy was discharged from hospital on the following day.