

Lindstrand 90 Hot Air Balloon, EI-CRB

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/99 **Ref:** EW/G99/06/16 **Category:** 3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Lindstrand 90 Hot Air Balloon, EI-CRB

No & Type of Engines: None

Year of Manufacture: 1998

Date & Time (UTC): 17 June 1999 at 0700 hrs

Location: Co Londonderry, Northern Ireland

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 -Passengers - 3

Injuries: Crew - Minor - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: None

Commander's Licence: Irish Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 75 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 970 hours (of which 72 were on type)
Last 90 days - 15 hours
Last 28 days - 9 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The balloon was on a private flight. After an uneventful take off and flight of about 30 minutes the surface wind was noted to be increasing and the pilot decided to land. The balloon track was towards a congested area of farm buildings, houses and a wood. A power line and a transformer pole were also seen on the line of flight. The pilot's intention was to cross this area and land beyond the tree line where another balloon had landed successfully. At about 300 feet agl a gust of wind distorted the envelope and the balloon descended rapidly. An immediate landing was not possible because of the congested area below and so the pilot applied maximum burner power in an attempt to arrest the descent. However, contact was made with the transformer pole and the pilot received electrical burns to his arm; the other three occupants were uninjured. The pilot was now effectively incapacitated and the balloon was successfully landed by one of the passengers who was a trainee balloon pilot. The balloon was undamaged and has since flown several times.

The meteorological forecast for the flight was obtained from Aldergrove airport, 25 nm from the launch site. The forecast for the period of the flight was for a surface wind of 300°/07 kt, visibility greater than 10 kilometres and scattered cloud at 3,000 feet.