



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Phoenix, Arizona	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR24LA006
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	October 3, 2023, 07:05 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N27MU
<b>Aircraft:</b>	ULTRAMAGIC SA N-300	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	None
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Hard landing	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Serious, 5 Minor, 7 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Aerial observation		

## Analysis

The pilot of the balloon reported that while descending for a landing with a 5 kt wind from the west, about 20 ft above ground level, the balloon's groundspeed increased to 12-13 kts. The pilot ascended the balloon due to power lines and when cleared, began the approach to landing in a small field. The pilot verified all passengers were in position for the landing and flared utilizing all 3 burners. Subsequently, the balloon impacted cholla covered desert terrain, bounced, and came to rest on its side about 140 ft from the initial landing area. Two passengers sustaining serious injury.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's improper landing flare, which resulted in a hard landing.

## Findings

<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot
<b>Aircraft</b>	Landing flare - Not attained/maintained
<b>Environmental issues</b>	(general) - Effect on operation

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Landing-flare/touchdown</b>	Hard landing (Defining event)
<b>Other</b>	Miscellaneous/other

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial; Private	<b>Age:</b>	70,Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Balloon	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	None
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	March 21, 2023
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	March 23, 2023
<b>Flight Time:</b>	3500 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	ULTRAMAGIC SA	<b>Registration:</b>	N27MU
<b>Model/Series:</b>	N-300	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Balloon
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	2023	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Balloon	<b>Serial Number:</b>	300/109
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	None	<b>Seats:</b>	0
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	May 18, 2023 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2402 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	0
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	75.34 Hrs at time of accident	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	MARS LEASING	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	KDVT, 1488 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	7 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	06:53 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	135°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	None / None
<b>Wind Direction:</b>		<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	N/A / N/A
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.93 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	17°C / 6°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Phoenix, AZ	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	
<b>Destination:</b>	Phoenix, AZ	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>		<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	None
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	2 Serious, 5 Minor, 6 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 Serious, 5 Minor, 7 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	33.773384,-112.16635(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Cawthra, Joshua
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Scott Boek; Federal Aviation Administration; Scottsdale, AZ
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	May 29, 2024
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class 4</a>
<b>Note:</b>	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=193195">https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=193195</a>

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