

Follow-up Action on Occurrence Report

ACCIDENT TO CAMERON Z-350, G-CCSA, AT PONTYPOOL, WALES ON 10 MAY 2006

CAA FACTOR NUMBER : F15/2007
FACTOR PUBLICATION DATE : 10 August 2007
OPERATOR : Ballooning Network Ltd.
CAA OCCURRENCE NUMBER : 2006/03826
AAIB REPORT : Bulletin 3/2007

SYNOPSIS

From AAIB Report:

Although the forecast included a 30% probability of thunderstorms, the local weather conditions were fine when the balloon launched from a field outside the town of Monmouth. About 40 minutes into the flight some of the occupants of the balloon basket observed lightning to the south and east. Approximately 15 minutes later, prompted by the sound of thunder, the pilot made an approach to land in the area that he had previously selected for the end of the flight. This approach was abandoned because of fluctuating winds and the presence of wires across the landing path. Another attempt to land was aborted before the pilot made an emergency landing in gusty wind conditions onto uneven ground. During the hard landing the pilot and one passenger received serious injuries and the other 13 passengers sustained minor injuries. Following the accident the operator reviewed their decision-making procedures prior to take off. Two recommendations regarding the operator's procedures and safety equipment have been made.

FOLLOW UP ACTION

The two Safety Recommendations made by the AAIB following their investigation are reproduced below together with the CAA's responses.

Recommendation 2006-132

It is recommended that Ballooning Network Ltd review their procedures to ensure that suitable alternative landing areas are identified in their spheres of operation in the event that a planned landing area cannot be used.

CAA Response

This Recommendation is not addressed to the CAA.

CAA Status - Closed

Recommendation 2006-133

It is recommended that Ballooning Network Ltd review their safety equipment, particularly with regards to the provision of protective helmets, to cater for possible emergencies.

CAA Response

This Recommendation is not addressed to the CAA.

CAA Status - Closed