

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198700744**

Colt 240A

23 August 1987

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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198700744 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: 5 km S of Alice Springs NT

Date: 23 August 1987 **Time:** 710

Highest Injury Level: Serious

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	3	1	4
Total	0	3	1	5

Aircraft Details: Colt 240A

Registration: VH-WMS

Serial Number: 994

Operation Type: Private (Ballooning)

Damage Level: Nil

Departure Point: Alice Springs NT

Departure Time: 0710

Destination: Alice Springs NT

Approved for Release: September 11th 1987

Circumstances:

The balloon operator had arranged a familiarisation flight for visiting travel agents. After some low and higher level demonstrations, the pilot descended the balloon to drift at treetop level above the Todd riverbed. As he was aware of powerlines in the vicinity he elected to land on a clearing just ahead. The pilot activated the rip panel which resulted in a high descent rate and very hard landing. The pilot became committed to the landing on unsuitable terrain after choosing to descend too early. The pilot of another balloon, that had been operating in company with this balloon, had delayed his descent a short time and made a successful landing on an open area. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.