

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198800733**

Kavanagh Balloon 240

7 October 1988

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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: 198800733
Location: 2 km West of Alice Springs NT
Date: 7 October 1988
Highest Injury Level: Serious
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident
Time: 650

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	1	0	9
Total	0	1	0	10

Aircraft Details: Kavanagh Balloon 240
Registration: VH-HKP
Serial Number: KBO54
Operation Type: Charter
Damage Level: Nil
Departure Point: Emily Gap (15km NE of Alice Springs) NT
Departure Time: 0620
Destination: Alice Springs NT

Approved for Release: 6 May 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot reported making an approach to land in light winds. The balloon skipped once and then made a slightly heavier than normal landing after brushing through a small tree. A female passenger complained of injury while still in the basket after landing. The balloon was deflated and the injured passenger was left in the basket for the trip to the hospital. A later report revealed that the passenger had suffered tibial plateau fractures to both legs. Witnesses and other passengers made no adverse comments about the severity of the landing. The injured passenger was wearing suitable footwear, but may have assumed an incorrect position when bracing for the landing.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The pilot executed a slightly heavier than normal landing.
2. The injured passenger possibly assumed an incorrect position for landing.