

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198802355**

Thunder & Colt 160 (Hot Air Balloon)

1 April 1988

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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.

This accident was not subject to an on scene investigation.

Occurrence Number: 198802355 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Belford State Forest (Hunter Valley) NSW
Date: 1 April 1988 **Time:** 0700 Approx.
Highest Injury Level: Serious
Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	1	0	5
Total	0	1	0	6

Aircraft Details: Thunder & Colt 160 (Hot Air Balloon)
Registration: VH-HKK
Serial Number: 934
Operation Type: Charter
Damage Level: Nil
Departure Point: North Rothbury NSW
Departure Time: 0600 Approx.
Destination: N/A

Approved for Release: 8 June 1988

Circumstances:

After landing in a sheltered gully, the pilot became concerned that the retrieval crew might not have access to the area. He therefore elected to proceed to another area about 3 kilometres away. At this location, a landing was carried out in 10 knot wind conditions. The basket made a hard flat contact with the ground, before being pulled over on its side by the deflating balloon canopy and the wind. Because of the possibility of the balloon making contact with a fence during the landing, the pilot had instructed all passengers to squat below the edge of the basket, which possibly made their stance for the landing unstable. One passenger received a fractured ankle when her leg twisted under her as the basket rolled over.