

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198900809**

**Thuncolt 60-69A**

**14 May 1989**

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 198900809  
**Location:** Nuriootpa SA  
**Date:** 14 May 1989  
**Highest Injury Level:** Serious  
**Injuries:**

**Occurrence Type:** Accident

**Time:** 1720

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	2	2
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Thuncolt 60-69A  
**Registration:** VH-OLA  
**Serial Number:** 588  
**Operation Type:** Private  
**Damage Level:** Nil  
**Departure Point:** Seppeltsfield SA  
**Departure Time:** 1630  
**Destination:** Nuriootpa SA

**Approved for Release:** 24th August 1989

**Circumstances:**

The approach to land was made in light wind conditions and at an approximate rate of descent of 200 feet per minute. The landing was firm. When the basket impacted with the ground the pilot flying the balloon was thrown forward and fell onto the passenger. The passenger's leg was broken. The rate of descent was not excessive and should not have caused the occupants to be thrown about if they were correctly braced prior to touchdown. The pilot reported that he lost concentration at a critical moment and did not brace himself sufficiently for the landing.

**Significant Factors:**

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

1. The pilot lost concentration during a critical phase of flight.
2. The pilot did not brace himself sufficiently to prevent being thrown forward during the landing.