

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199702471**

**Kavanagh Balloons Pty Ltd  
E-240**

**02 August 1997**

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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:** 199702471      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** Camden, Aerodrome  
**State:** NSW      **Inv Category:** 4  
**Date:** Saturday 02 August 1997  
**Time:** 0905 hours      **Time Zone** EST  
**Highest Injury Level:** Serious  
**Injuries:**

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	Total
Crew	0	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	0	0
Passenger	0	1	0	11	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>

**Aircraft Manufacturer:** Kavanagh Balloons Pty Ltd  
**Aircraft Model:** E-240  
**Aircraft Registration:** VH-HUN      **Serial Number:**  
**Type of Operation:** Charter      Passenger  
**Damage to Aircraft:** Nil  
**Departure Point:** Picton. NSW  
**Departure Time:** 0800 EST  
**Destination:** Camden. NSW

**Crew Details:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Class of Licence</b>	<b>Hours on Type</b>	<b>Hours Total</b>
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial		1200

**Approved for Release:** Wednesday, August 27, 1997

The hot air balloon had taken off from Picton on an early morning joyflight to Camden. Surface wind conditions were calm, with a south-westerly wind of 24 kt at 1,000 ft. Surface winds were not expected to increase before late morning.

The pilot in command reported that the flight proceeded as planned, and a normal approach was made for a landing on Camden aerodrome. The surface wind was 5-8 kt. Some 200 m from the landing point, at a height of about 50 ft, the rate of descent began to increase more than required. The pilot activated two burners for about 5 sec to arrest the descent. As expected, the balloon flew level for a short distance, then unexpectedly began to climb rapidly. The parachute valve was opened to counteract the climb, which stopped at about 200-250 ft. However, the balloon then began to descend rapidly. All burners were turned on in an attempt to arrest the descent, but to no avail. The balloon impacted the ground at an estimated rate of descent of 600-700 fpm.



The rapid deflation system was operated just before impact, but the balloon was dragged across the ground for about 30 m before becoming airborne again, reaching a height of about 20 ft before again contacting the ground and being dragged a further 40 m. As the balloon came to a halt the pilot reported that the deflated envelope flapped in the breeze for some time, suggesting an increase in the surface wind.

One lady sustained a fractured ankle during the landing. The other twelve occupants were uninjured.

