



A00-128-7271

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	11/11/2000	Time of Accident	1550Z	
Aircraft Registration	ZS-HOK	Type of Aircraft	Flamboyant Balloon AX 8-85	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Hot Air Balloon		Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	45.10	Total Hours on Type	45.10
Type of Operation	Private			
Last point of departure	Primary School Anton van Wouw (Brooklyn – Pretoria)			
Next point of intended landing	No intention of flight (Tether)			

Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)

Lange Street opposite ABSA Bank (Brooklyn - PTA)

Meteorological Information	Fine - With recent thundershowers				
Number of people on board	1 + 3	No. of people injured	3 Minor	No. of people killed	None

Synopsis

The balloon was attached to three tether lines on the schools rugby field. During the third lift (tether) at a height of approximately 15-20 feet above the ground an unexpected strong gust/thermal from the west caused one of the tether lines to snap/fail. The balloon was at ±20 feet agl moving in an easterly direction.

The pilot was unable to gain sufficient height to clear the roof of a nearby office building, causing the basket to collide with the roof. The basket/balloon then landed in Lange Street in-front of ABSA Bank (Brooklyn – Branch) causing some damage to a section of the fence.

The four occupants remained in the basket until it crash-landed, with one of the passengers sustaining a cut to his left hand and arm.

Probable Cause

Due to unsuitable weather conditions prevailing at the time (sudden gust of wind –thermal-thunderstorm) one of the tether ropes failed when the balloon ascended to a height of approximately 15-20 feet above ground level. The balloon was blown to the east causing the failure of the other two ropes as well.

The pilot was unable to gain sufficient height once the ropes had failed, causing the basket to collide with the roof of a nearby office building where after it crash-landed in Lange Street.