



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Albuquerque, NM	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR21FA242
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	June 26, 2021, 07:07 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N158NM
<b>Aircraft:</b>	CAMERON BALLOONS US O-120	<b>Injuries:</b>	5 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Business		

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On June 26, 2021, about 0707 mountain daylight time, a Cameron Balloons US, O-120 Balloon, N158NM, was destroyed when it was involved in an accident in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The pilot and 4 passengers were fatally injured. The balloon was operated as Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* Part 91 business flight.

According to witnesses, the balloon struck high voltage power lines and the basket separated from the envelop. Subsequently, the basket fell and impacted the road, while the separated envelope remained airborne, climbed, and then floated away. The balloon's envelope was later located about 2 miles south from the accident site.

A review of surveillance videos from local area businesses revealed that the balloon began a climb before the road intersection where the power lines were located. The videos then depict the balloon descending into the power lines as it crossed about perpendicular to the wires. Shortly thereafter, the balloon contacted a high-tension power line, an arc appeared, and the basket separated from the envelope.

The accident site was located at a major road intersection. Several power lines ran perpendicular to the road and crossed the intersection. The power lines were strung between metal poles that were about 78 ft in height. Additionally, there were two static lines that were located on top of the power lines. One static line was missing on the south side.

The balloon wreckage was recovered to a secure location.

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CAMERON BALLOONS US	Registration:	N158NM
Model/Series:	O-120	Aircraft Category:	Balloon
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Operator Designator Code:

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KABQ, 5314 ft msl	Observation Time:	06:52 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	6 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	19°C / 6°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	11 knots / , 20°
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.07 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:		Destination:	Albuquerque, NM

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	4 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	5 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	35.07742, -106.72294 (est)

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Nixon, Albert

Additional Participating Persons:

Note: