

Follow-up Action on Occurrence Report

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*ACCIDENT TO SKY 260-24, G-KTKT IN A FIELD NEAR BRODSWORTH HALL, NEAR DONCASTER,
SOUTH YORKSHIRE ON 13 AUGUST 2009*

CAA FACTOR NUMBER : F5/2010
FACTOR PUBLICATION DATE : 14 October 2010
OPERATOR : Commercial Air Transport (Passenger)
CAA OCCURRENCE NUMBER : 200908841
AAIB REPORT : Bulletin 8/2010

SYNOPSIS

From AAIB Report

The pilot was landing the balloon in a field of stubble in which there were a number of large rectangular straw bales. The balloon basket bounced and dragged on landing before coming to a stop against one of the bales. During the landing a female passenger sustained serious injuries.

FOLLOW UP ACTION

The one Safety Recommendation made by the AAIB, following their investigations, is reproduced below, together with the CAA's Response.

Recommendation 2010-052

Balloon landings can take place at unprepared sites and may occasionally be bumpy for the occupants, especially in higher wind conditions if the basket tips over and drags along the ground. At present, not all commercial balloon operators make passengers aware of this, either at the booking stage or prior to a flight. Therefore, it is recommended that the Civil Aviation Authority require all commercial balloon operators to make prospective passengers aware of the varied nature of balloon landings so that they can make an informed decision as to whether or not to undertake a flight.

CAA Response

The CAA accepts this Recommendation. It will review current guidance material and write to all UK Balloon AOC operators to remind them of the necessity for their operations manuals to contain appropriate entries to ensure that all prospective balloon passengers are advised of the varied and possibly energetic natures of balloon landings. This reminder will recommend that this advice should be given when the flight is booked, as well as being a required element of the pre-flight briefing. This work will be completed by 28 Feb 2011 in advance of the flying "season".

CAA Status - Open