



# National Transportation Safety Board

Heart of Texas Hot Air  
Balloon Rides  
Kubíček BB85Z Balloon  
Lockhart, Texas  
July 30, 2016  
Paul Suffern  
Meteorology Investigator



# Weather Conditions

- Briefing (1 hour 52 min before departure)
  - 10 miles visibility, scattered clouds 1,100 ft agl, temp 23°C, dew point 22°C
  - Forecast broken ceiling at 1,200 ft agl
- 23 minutes before takeoff
  - 5 miles visibility, few clouds at 700 ft agl, temp 22°C, dew point 22°C

# Weather Conditions

- 21 minutes before takeoff  
Forecast broken ceiling at 900 ft agl, 5 miles visibility
- 12 minutes before takeoff  
2 miles visibility, mist, broken ceiling at 700 ft agl,  
temp 23°C, dew point 23°C

# Launch Preparation (6:35 am)



## 2 Minutes After Takeoff (7:00 am)





## 5 Minutes After Takeoff (7:03 am)



# 19 Minutes After Takeoff (7:17 am)



## 20 Minutes After Takeoff (7:18 am)





## 4 Minutes Before Accident (7:38 am)



## 2 Minutes Before Accident (7:40 am)



# Low Cloud and Fog Guidance

- Temperature and dew point close together
- FAA *Balloon Flying Handbook* fog information



