

Media Release

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Hot Balloon makes Rough Landing near Mayer

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION - This morning, the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office was notified regarding a hot air balloon accident in an area of Old Cordes, located about 8 miles east of Mayer, Arizona. The initial call came in around 8 AM, but deputies were cancelled after the balloon's crew indicated our help was not needed. Just after 9 AM, Mayer Fire officials notified YCSO that passengers from the balloon were being treated at the fire station and requested our assistance.

Following are the details I have at this time:

A hot air balloon, owned by Arizona Balloon Works in Cottonwood, lifted off early this morning from the Black Canyon Wash near Cottonwood intending to fly to a predestinated landing zone in Camp Verde. As a result of unpredictable winds, the balloon was forced over Mingus Mountain and into the Old Cordes community where the landing took place. During the landing, the passenger basket struck the ground several times and travelled about 150 yards before coming to rest. The rough landing resulted in minor injuries to at least 4 of the 9 passengers. A total of 10 were on board including the pilot.

A chase crew, who is designated to supply ground control instructions to the balloon's pilot, arrived at the landing site and transported all passengers to the Mayer Fire Department. Those 4 with minor injuries were taken to Verde Valley Medical Center for follow-up treatment. The pilot was not injured.

The balloon and basket were already loaded onto a trailer when deputies arrived on scene. The attached photos were taken at that time.

The FAA and NTSB were notified and will assume control of the investigation.

Citizens can contact the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office with information or questions at 928-771-3260 or the YCSO website: www.ycsoaz.gov