

19 August 1975

SUBJECT: Filling Propane Tanks and Operation of Valve on
Liquid Level Gauge in Raven Model RX-6 Hot Air
Balloons

An unsafe situation exists when the valve on the liquid level gauge is opened with the tanks in the gondola such that substantial quantities of propane vapor and/or liquid escape into the gondola. Propane vapor, being heavier than air, may accumulate in the gondola and not escape because the holes provided on the underside of the gondola are closed off by the surface on which the gondola is resting. Therefore, all Model RX-6 hot air balloon owners are hereby warned that propane fuel tanks should not be filled with the tanks in the gondola. In addition, the valve on the liquid level gauge should not be opened to remove excess propane with the tanks in the gondola.

Being sent under separate cover are warning signs which should be installed, one on each fuel tank. The signs shall be placed on the tanks so they can be read with the fuel tanks in operating position. The sign reads:

"Danger: Do not fill propane tanks or open valve on liquid level gauge with tanks in gondola. Failure to heed this warning will result in accumulation of propane in gondola and may result in serious injury caused by flash fire."

Included with this bulletin is an addition to the Model RX-6 Balloon Flight Manual. The enclosed paragraph should be added to the "LIMITATIONS" section of your balloon flight manual

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INSERT

MODEL RX-6 HOT AIR BALLOON FLIGHT MANUAL

1.0 Limitations (Continued)

- 1.10 Do not fill propane tanks or open valve on liquid level gauge with tanks in gondola. Failure to heed this warning will result in accumulation of propane in gondola and may result in serious injury due to flash fire.

FAA Approval: Frank S. Baldini

Date: Aug 26, 1975