



News from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office

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March 22, 2009

Hot Air Balloon Crashes in Arlington

A man piloting a hot air balloon narrowly escaped injury this evening when it crashed into some power lines in Arlington.

Just before 5 pm, Fred Durham, Jr., 50, of Germantown, had just boarded the balloon and was taking off along Memphis- Arlington Road near Commander when a gust of wind blew the balloon towards some power lines.

Durham tried to maneuver the balloon away from the lines but was too close to them. After hitting the lines the basket came to rest along a drainage ditch. He climbed out without injury. No other persons were on board.

The impact knocked power out to parts of the Arlington area. MLGW crews are now working to restore electricity to neighborhoods near the crash site.

(End of Release)