

Hot air balloons land next to Melbourne's Eastlink motorway and in Vermont South backyard



Photo: One of the balloons landed next to the Eastlink tollway in Wantirna South. (ABC News)

Seventeen people have escaped injury after two hot air balloons landed next to a motorway and a backyard in Melbourne's eastern suburbs this morning.

Key points:

- Both balloons landed at separate locations about 8:00am
- A witness said one balloon crashed through gum trees behind her back fence
- None of the passengers in the balloons were injured

Ambulance Victoria said one balloon was carrying nine people when it landed near the intersection of High Street Road and Eastlink in Wantirna South about 8:00am.

At the same time, another balloon carrying eight people landed in Terrara Park in Vermont South, with part of the balloon falling into a neighbouring backyard.

Paramedics have assessed people who were on board the balloons and said nobody was injured in either landing.

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Photo: One balloon was left partly hanging over a Vermont South backyard. (Twitter: Ariel Merida)

'They looked like stunned mullets'

Christine, from Vermont South, told Melbourne radio station 3AW the balloon appeared to be carrying Chinese tourists and landed next to her back fence.

"The balloon is over our fence into our pool, all I could hear was the crashing of the gumtrees as it hit," she said.

"The balloon is huge, just near our pergola.

"It was the scariest thing, I thought it was an earthquake or a big gumtree coming down, and then bang, the thing hit and the balloon was over our fence.

"I'm still shaking actually, it was really, really scary plus I was worried, because of the impact, maybe people have been hurt.

"I flew down in my pyjamas to see if the people were all right.

"One lady fainted, but the rest, they looked like stunned mullets."

Extracted from:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-18/hot-air-balloon-emergency-landing-melbourne/10820616>

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