

Araho Ltd.

Burnt Hills, NY 12027

Stuart, FL 34997

August 17, 2016

Scott Pratt
Aviation Safety Ins
FAA
Flight Standards Dis Off EA-65
412 Yellow Bird Road
Portland, ME 04102

Dear Mr. Pratt:

In reference to the accident in my hot air balloon on Saturday evening, August 6, 2016 at approximately 6:50 pm (Balloon Registration No. N317W), I would like to give you the following details:

During our weather briefing at the Pittsfield, NH Balloon Festival we discussed the winds because they were 8-10 knots then would calm to less than 5 and then come back up again. After that discussion it was determined the field was open and each pilot could make their own decision. It was a clear evening. After taking my time inflating to see how the winds would be, I finally did inflate. As the balloon stood there it was not rocking which means it was not excessively windy, I decided to put passengers in and take off. The flight was uneventful. We went to 1200-1500 feet and came back down due south from Pittsfield landing in North Lake on a 4-5 acre parcel of land surrounded by some trees. In a balloon there is no planned or unplanned landing, it is the first safe field you believe you can get into after a reasonable time of flying. The landing was a little hard but otherwise uneventful. My elderly passenger, Mr. Carlson fell in the basket and cut his right wrist. At the hospital it was discovered that he had a broken hip. He will be 88 in October of this year. The weather was about the same as it was at take-off approximately an hour earlier. The owner of the land is a member of the volunteer fire department. He called the Fire Department and police for assistance and Mr. Carlson was transported to Concord, NH hospital.

Passengers in the balloon: Fredrick Carlson, Cameron Burton, Brayden Burton, Nancy Kamieniecki and Daniel Kamieniecki.

Balloon Info: Model Firefly 8 System FB-403

<u>Model</u>	<u>Serial #</u>
Envelope FF8	Serial 8403-3
Basket: 4.9A1	Serial # 366
Burner: F1	Serial #232

Scott Pratt

FAA

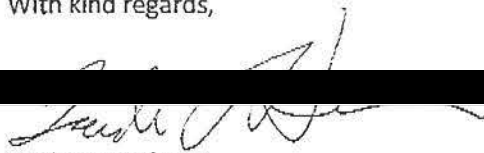
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There was no damage to the balloon that was observed as it was put away. As of this writing, the balloon has not been flown again. Address of balloon owner: Araho Balloon Co. LLC, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Stuart, FL 34997.

If you need further information, please feel free to contact me.

With kind regards,

[REDACTED]


Frederic T. O'Hara