



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Pilot Interview
ERA21LA366

Peter Wentz
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: September 17, 2021
Pilot/Operator: Keith Sproul

Mr. Sproul stated he took off from Post Mills airport about 7:00am. It became time to land the balloon and Mr. Sproul stated he started to look for a landing spot, "I descended down to tree top level to get the balloon into slower winds". Everything was looking normal until the wind shifted slightly and the balloon brushed up against a tree. Mr. Sproul stated that his lap belt had come undone, and after hitting the tree, he stated "I slid forward in the seat and almost fell out, ending up holding on to the bars of the chair". At this point all he could do was hold on to the frame. The balloon got caught up in the tree, damaging the envelope and frame. When asked the pilot stated that the balloon had no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation.