

Eric Alleyne
ASI
ERA-AS

Date: 10/19/2023
Subject: ERA23LA371, Pilot statement
Contact: Robert Wiegand, Pilot

The statement below was received from the pilot via email.

"Aircraft performed a normal takeoff and stayed in the pattern to perform a banner pick. Pilot performed left traffic to pick in the pick field to about a 60 degree offset of runway 27 (runway used for takeoff). Final approach to pick and the actual pick procedure were performed through the poles and pilot successfully caught the pick rope and banner. Aircraft proceeded to climbout at full power with no flaps and pitched for speed at roughly 45-50 mph. Aircraft then began to drift left prior to the logo banner taking flight. While drifting left the pilot attempted to correct to bring the aircraft back on course to the right and the banner climbed out following the aircraft above the trees. After banner cleared the trees pilot disengaged the banner. Aircraft abruptly pitched up, Right wing dropped followed by a 180 degree spin to the right into the trees where the aircraft impacted the ground."