

NTSB Accident reports identifying an open canopy:

ERA20CA303  
GAA19CA037  
ERA15LA087  
ERA13LA183  
CEN12LA071  
DEN08FA140  
CHI99LA228

Accessed on August 22, 2022, from:

<https://zenith.aero/profiles/blogs/zenith-601-xl-canopy-opened-during-the-flight>

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### Zenith 601 XL canopy opened during the flight

Posted by [redacted] on May 8, 2013 at 3:33am [View Blog](#)

Has anyone had the canopy of 601 XL open during the flight ??

My canopy opened in flight at 1500' at 100 kts early this month (May 2013). The aircraft dived towards the land and was hard to control. The canopy stayed up in the air and I could not pull it down. I slowed down to 60 kts and dropped down to 500' just in case I had to land on the beach. All the items got sucked out from the back including my head phones. I turned back to the airport, about 2 miles. I could not communicate with any one so I had to be careful of other traffic in the circuit. It was hard to see forward due to high wind. I managed to land the aircraft safely.

Since this episode, I have install a safety belt so the canopy can not open if the latches are opened or fail.

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Comment by [redacted] on May 10, 2013 at 3:13pm

Mine opened in flight. There's a write-up in the Zodiac forum dated January 13th on that.

A secondary latch is mandatory, IMHO. I installed the same one Phill did. In my case, I accidentally unlatched it when pulling a backpack from the baggage compartment, after which the canopy opened. One other time it started to come open, but the secondary latch stopped it. I triple-check it before every flight.

I also modified the 650 latches to take more "bite", and haven't had any problems since.

- Pat