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Safety Is No Accident

Parachutes ...just in case

On flights that require, either by regulation or common sense, the use of parachutes, you need to be fully aware of their use. You need to be aware of your limitations as well as the common misuse of your "expensive cushion". The following only highlights the knowledge you need to understand about the proper use of the parachute. If you have any questions, please direct them to your instructor. It is important you realize that this short handout is not intended to replace competent Sky Diving instruction. In an emergency, this handout needs to be completely understood!

PRE-FLIGHT CHECK

- Packing data card in date (FAR's)
- Ripcord pins seated correctly, not too far in or out (pin should not be buried in grommet)
- Ripcord cable free in housing
- Handle firmly secured to cable
- Pin cover flap secured
- Pack opening bungees secured (old military style only)
- General inspection for wear, frayed straps, rusted hardware etc.

PUTTING THE PARACHUTE ON

- Straps routed correctly
- Tension and fit ok.
- Dress your self in the center or you could end up with a "High Voice" (males only!).
- Quick-release snaps fully closed
- Ripcord handle secure, visible, and accessible

BAILOUT

- Pull jettison handles (if installed to jettison canopy)
- **Clear the aircraft** (to avoid snagging on the aircraft)
- **LOOK** (at the ripcord), **GRIP** (with both hands), **PULL HARD** (down to your feet), Feet together (to avoid tangling)
- Steer to a clear landing area (usually there are toggles or marked suspension lines. If you don't have any obvious steering mechanism, grab the lines on each side and pull to turn. Find out how your parachute steers. If you don't know ask your rigger)



LANDING

On Land

- Face into the wind
- Feet and knees together
- Knees bent (with spring like tension)
- Look at the horizon, so you don't anticipate the touchdown
- If the wind is strong enough to drag you, don't try to fight it. Reach up and grab any ONE line and pull it hand over hand until you reach the canopy. This will deflate it and stop the dragging. BE QUICK!

In Water

- Face into the wind.
- Stay in the harness until you touch the water.
- After splash down, float on your back & get out of the harness
- If the canopy lands on you, swim down and away to get clear

In Trees

- Feet & knees tightly together (think Crotch!)
- Fold arms, hands in armpits, palms facing in, to protect throat and armpits
- Bury face in elbow
- Don't try to grab branches - hold position until all movement has stopped. Always expect to continue all the way to the ground. Be prepared to land!
- If you are close to the ground, get out of the harness and drop
- If you are too high, you may be better off waiting until some one comes for you. People have died falling out of a tree after making a safe landing in it. Remember there is no rush. Secure a safe position first, then deal with removing parachute harness.

Boulders, Fences, Vehicles etc

- Steer to avoid - there are no good techniques for landing on such obstacles. It is better to deflect with both feet rather than your hands. It may be better to remain turned into the wind rather than to turn near the ground, which will increase your decent speed.

Power Lines

- Avoid at all costs! Almost anything is preferable. Your parachute &/or harness will conduct high voltages!



Be sure to ask your instructor if you have any questions