

## Safety Line



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National Safety &  
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Howdy all,

42 cutaways this year to date! With a sport like ours, which is extremely gear dependent, and with most malfunctions caused by human error and not failure of the equipment, I find it difficult to understand why more attention is not paid to packing and maintenance of our gear.

History has shown that a malfunction of the main parachute is usually caused by packing errors, lack of gear checks or bad body position at the time of deployment.

Lets look at our stats year to date

Of the 42 cutaways, 28 are directly attributable to packing errors. 16 were packed by the people concerned i.e. own pack jobs and 12 were packed by other persons. 3 were due to the lack of gear checks prior to exit and one was due to body position.

With a little attention to detail, we should be able to eliminate a large proportion of our incidents. That's a great result for doing something that we should already be paying attention to. I have attached a checklist for you to work through when inspecting your gear.

For those that use packers make a point of packing/ inspecting your own gear once in a while. Lack of gear checks before climbing on board and before exit is just irresponsible and stupid as you not only place yourself at risk but the aircraft, pilot and the other jumpers as well.

Well maintained serviceable gear should give you peace of mind when you exit through the door and allow you to concentrate on and enjoy your skydive.

Read through the checklist below and apply it to your gear –

How did you measure up?

### **Maintenance**

#### **Main**

- pilot chute handle secure
- pilot chute fabric crisp and seams intact
- pin smooth and securely attached to bridle
- pilot chute collapsing system in good condition
- top grommet on deployment bag not warped
- stitches holding stow band loops not ravelled
- pilot chute attachment point to canopy secure
- no fabric damage or broken stitching
- stitching on line attachment points and cascades secure
- no damage to lines, especially steering lines at cascades and brake locking loops
- no damage to slider material
- slider grommets not warped, bent or worn through
- no corroded or cracked metal connector links; links snug; connector link protectors intact
- cloth connector links correctly assembled and not worn
- no rust on rings or other hardware on risers

### **Brake System**

- no corrosion on keeper ring
- stitching and webbing not worn
- no strains on elastic keeper loops

- Velcro on toggles not worn
- toggles securely knotted

### **Harness and Container**

- no fabric damage or broken stitching
- all Velcro still clings (riser covers, riser retainers, main pin cover flaps, leg strap pilot chute bridle mating)
- grommets not deformed
- remove cutaway cables and wipe clean (especially with hard cable housings)
- reserve cable swage (ball on end of cable) secure
- pilot chute pouch undamaged; elastic good
- replace main closing loop (make extras while you're at it)
- reserve closing loop not worn; rigger should replace

### **Packing**

- brakes stowed
- lines straight and untwisted
- lines remain in centre of canopy throughout pack job (especially D and steering lines)
- slider all the way up to stops and positioned correctly
- rubber bands in good condition and the correct size
- line stows the correct length and tight
- enough line slack between bag and risers
- closing loop in good condition and the correct length
- washer present at knot of closing loop
- collapsible pilot chute cocked
- pilot chute bridle routed correctly
- slack in bridle above pin so pin extracts freely
- pilot chute folded correctly (per manufacturer's instructions)

### **The Gear Check (Back to Front, Top to Bottom)**

#### **Reserve**

- AAD on
- pin in place
- closing loop in good condition
- RSL routed correctly
- seal and thread intact
- ripcord moves freely through housing

#### **Main**

- main pin seated in closing loop
- pilot chute cocked (check window)
- pilot chute bridle routed correctly
- closing loop in good condition
- pilot chute securely in pocket
- pilot chute handle accessible

#### **3-Ring Release**

- rings free of corrosion
- only one ring through another
- loop through smallest ring only
- loop in good condition
- loop goes through riser and then grommet at end of cable housing, then cable goes through the loop

#### **Harness and Extras**

- chest strap threaded correctly through hardware
- ripcord and cutaway handles in view, secure and easily accessible
- leg straps and harness not twisted

- leg straps threaded correctly through hardware and cinched tightly
- all excess webbing stowed
- altimeter zeroed
- audible altimeter set

A list of rated parachute technicians is attached should you wish to avail of their services:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone No.</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>	<b>Rating #</b>	
Chris Dales	082-414-4797	info@parachutesystems.co.za	RM1E	Master Rigger/Evaluator
Ian "Boss Doug" Douglas	083-680-5085	bossdoug@iafrica.com	RM3E	Master Rigger/Evaluator
Gavin Abroue	082-784-0879	gavinabroue@lantic.net	RM6	Master Rigger
Casper Greijling	082-381-1991	Fax: 051-402-1622	RS7	Senior Rigger
Kobus de Klerk	082-335-3208	pianko@intekom.co.za	RM8	Master Rigger
André de Klerk	082-335-3208	pianko@intekom.co.za	RM9	Master Rigger
Steve Bartels	082-894-0794	saly@mweb.co.za	RS16	Senior Rigger
Wolfgang Gebetsroither	082-254-0664	wolfgang@cyberpro.co.za	RP30	Reserve Packer
Long Pete Mauchan	082-888-9681	lp@skydivecapetown.za.net	RS32	Senior Rigger
Manuel Cordeiro	083-252-8720	manny@icarus.co.za	RS55	Senior Rigger
Andrew Doncaster	084-506-8119	andy@offroadcrossing.co.za	RM62	Master Rigger
Erik Vliegenthart	083-472-5448	erik@verticalsports.co.za	RM68	Master Rigger
Mark Elliott	083-324-5695	mark@epe.co.za	RP70	Reserve Packer
Donavon Crerar	082-882-9188	dcrerar@iafrica.com	RS73	Senior Rigger
Robert Verner	083-653-3192	robv@iburst.co.za	RP79	Reserve Packer
Hardus Visser	082-722-1153	vvissie@hotmail.com	RP80	Reserve Packer
Michael Nyman	083-784-9966	michael@skydivekzn.co.za	RP81	Reserve Packer
Vernon Kloppers	072-214-6040	vernon@skydivedurban.co.za	RS83	Senior Rigger
Francois Goosen	082-924-0662	sky@wol.co.za	RP85	Reserve Packer

**Safety remains everybody's concern!**

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