

Circ. 1/2021 - February 2021



TECHNICAL & SAFETY COMMITTEE

INTERNATIONAL SKYDIVING COMMISSION (FAI)

SAFETY ISSUES OF CONCERN

Dear Technical/Safety Officer

The Technical & Safety Committee takes this opportunity to bring some issues to your attention, with a view to trying to reduce the number of skydiving fatalities.

Please circulate this document as you see fit.

Currency

Due to the pandemic, it is to be expected that the volume of skydiving in 2020 will be somewhat lesser than in previous years.

This in itself will bring into play the 'non-currency' factor, where skydivers will perhaps have had long breaks between jumping.

Instructors, Safety Officers and Operators are urged to take this into consideration where re-commencing operations, bearing in mind that Instructors and senior personnel themselves may not be current.

Other Issues of Concern

The Technical & Safety Committee has been concerned for quite a long number of years at the numbers of skydiving fatalities in two areas specifically –

- 1 Intentional Fast Landings/Other Landing Errors and
- 2 Cutaway No Reserve/Cutaway Low Reserve/Too Low Deployment

This table shows figures for the last five years of Safety Reports

Year	Fatalities	Intentional Fast Landings	Other Landing Errors	Cutaway No Res, Cutaway Low Res Low deployment	Human Error
2015	60	12	7	10	70%
2016	39	7	8	3	74%
2017	51	8	6	9	78%
2018	44	7	5	7	68%
2019	44	6	10	5	80%
TOTALS	238	40	36	34	Av. 74%

You will see that:-

- 76 of the 238 fatalities (32%) happened at the landing stage.
- 34 of the 238 fatalities (14%) happened through no deployment or inadequate or late emergency/cutaway procedures.

On average over the five years **HUMAN ERROR** accounted for 74% - three out of four - skydiving fatalities. While **HUMAN ERROR** is a factor in all areas of human activity, road traffic accidents, work accidents and sport, it is of the greatest importance that we do everything possible to lessen the impact of **HUMAN ERROR** in skydiving.

Landing and emergency procedures are two
fundamental elements of a skydive.

An Appeal from T&S

Many skydiving Federations and Associations conduct regular safety seminars and safety days, at regional and local level. This is an excellent initiative and the T&S Committee makes this special appeal to you, as a Senior Person involved in skydiving safety and technical issues in your country.

We ask you to re-emphasise the **HUMAN ERROR** factor in skydiving incidents and urge renewed and frequent education and instruction in

Safe Landing Techniques

Timely and Correct Emergency/Cutaway Drills.

Every skydiving fatality is a tragedy, for the family and friends of the deceased, and in most cases a young life is cut short.

Together let us do our outmost to make our sport safer and reduce these dreadful accidents.

Technical & Safety Committee

International Skydiving Commission (FAI)

István Sipos, Hungary

Gustavo Eduardo Reyes, Argentina

Ralph Schusser, Germany

Dr Stephan Kramer, USA

Chang Il Choi, Rep. Korea

Mark Belligan, South Africa

Jiri Blaska, Czech Rep.

Alberto Martin Paracuellos, Spain

Liam McNulty, Ireland

**LET US TOGETHER WORK TO REDUCE THE INCIDENTS OF
FATALITIES IN THESE AREAS OF SKYDIVING.**