



# SAFETY NOTICE

No. 21-01

**To:** All parachutists, parachute technicians, drop pilots and operators  
**Subject:** Safety recommendations following recent accidents  
**Compliance:** Informational  
**Date of Issue:** 26/Nov/2021  
**Compliance Due:** Ongoing

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*This Safety Notice is issued following review of several recent serious incidents, both in New Zealand and overseas.*

## All solo parachutists and tandem masters

All parachutists are reminded to regularly and thoroughly review all safety-critical procedures, including main parachute packing and inspection; pre-jump equipment checks; in-aircraft and exit procedures; freefall safety; canopy flight and landing; and procedures for any and all emergencies.

It is recommended that all parachutists periodically engage in refresher training with an instructor or peer proficiency checking, whichever is appropriate, covering all of the above areas at a minimum, especially after any break from parachuting.

## Instructors and canopy coaches

Instructors and canopy coaches at all levels are advised to review their current training material with a focus on the basics, including landing priorities; traffic / right-of-way rules; crosswind, downwind and no-wind landings; obstacle landings; off-PLA landings; and low turn recovery.

Instructors and coaches are also reminded that trainees under their supervision must maintain accurate and up-to-date logbooks to document the skills they've learned and their experience on different equipment.

It is recommended that instructors and coaches in all disciplines regularly engage in comprehensive refresher training or peer proficiency checking, covering all of the above areas at a minimum, in addition to the required biennial proficiency checks.

## Parachute technicians and main parachute packers

PTs and packers are reminded to regularly and thoroughly review all safety-critical procedures, including equipment inspection and assembly; parachute packing; tool control; rating privileges and limitations (as applicable); and currency requirements.

It is recommended that all PTs and packers regularly engage in refresher training or peer proficiency checking covering all of the above areas at a minimum, especially if they often work alone and/or after any long break from their duties.



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## Parachute drop pilots

Drop pilots are reminded to regularly and thoroughly review all safety-critical procedures, including ICAs for installed modifications, if any; potential snag points in/on the aircraft; and procedures for any and all aircraft emergencies including airframe strike and hang-up scenarios.

It is recommended that all drop pilots regularly engage in comprehensive refresher training or peer proficiency checking covering all of the above areas at a minimum, especially after any break from parachute drop flying.

## Operators / safety officers

Operators are advised to review their procedures for assessing and authorising parachutists for specific canopies and landing manoeuvres. There are no “safe” or “unsafe” canopies—all can be landed safely or unsafely depending on the skill of the canopy pilot—so it’s important for all parachutists, from students to experts, to have skills and training that are appropriate to the type of canopies they are flying.

It is recommended that operators, if they haven’t already, include consequential risks of Covid-19 protection measures to their SMS, e.g. the effects of lockdowns and reduced workloads on personnel currency/ongoing competency and proficiency with the operation’s safety systems and risk management procedures.

## ALL PARTICIPANTS

NZPIA strongly recommends that everyone participating in parachuting activities—regardless of area of specialty, total experience or currency—regularly participate in training courses, skills camps and community events, either as a host or an attendee. These events help community members stay in touch with their peers and promote safety through sharing knowledge and experiences.

NZPIA also strongly encourages all participants to openly discuss and share information about accidents and incidents, without judgement or blame, to promote safety through shared learning at all levels of the community.



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Jennifer Lowe  
NZPIA Chief Executive Officer

Forward any questions about this Safety Notice to: [ceo@nzpia.co.nz](mailto:ceo@nzpia.co.nz).