



SAFETY INFORMATION

8/89

STEVENS LANYARD RELEASE SHACKLE

This note addresses a potential problem with Tandem /AFF & RAPS student parachute assemblies which incorporates a small brass shackle as the means of attachment of the Stevens Lanyard Reserve Activation System to the main canopy riser.

It has been brought to the attention of the B.P.A. STC that there have been at least three incidents whereby the fabric tag which is affixed to the locking pin of the Lanyard's riser attachment shackle has been trapped underneath the harness when worn. As a result, during deployment of the main canopy and as the main riser has lifted from its packed position, the trapped tag has released the shackle pin. This has allowed the premature release of the Stevens Cutaway Lanyard from the main riser.

In the case of a main canopy malfunction, this means there would be NO automatic initiation of the reserve rip cord after cutting away from the main parachute.

Whilst this would probably not constitute a major problem for experienced Tandem Instructors, ~~in the case of an AFF or RAPS student this could result in the non-activation of a reserve after a main canopy cutaway.~~

It is recommended that;

- a) In the case of a student AFF and Raps equipment the fabric tag is removed from the shackle release pin, and
- b) Instructors identify this point as a pre-flight check.

Manufacturers are being contacted with respect to these occurrences, however, it would be appreciated that any similar incidents are reported to the B.P.A. Office as soon as possible.

A. Cowley
Chairman - Riggers Committee

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