

To police officers attending the scene of skydiving (sport parachuting) accident or incident

1. Police officers (unless they happen to be skydivers themselves) may be unfamiliar with the environment of skydiving Parachute Training Organisations (PTOs)/Dropping Zones (DZs) or skydiving displays. These notes are intended as a brief introduction when police are called to a skydiving accident or incident, including a serious or fatal accident.
2. Police officers may naturally at first designate the scene of a skydiving accident as a crime scene. Investigation most often reveals there not to have been a crime committed, but to a sporting accident. Skydiving is a dangerous sport in which, notwithstanding sophisticated safety measures, accidents sadly do occur and there is the possibility of accidental injury and death. Participants in the sport are aware of this and take part with informed consent.
3. British Skydiving asks all skydivers and skydiving drop zones to co-operate fully with the police.
4. Skydiving accidents and incidents, including fatal accidents, are investigated by specialist accident investigators from the British Skydiving the not-for-profit National Governing Body of the Sport.
5. British Skydiving regulates safety in skydiving through an Exposition of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), which recognises British Skydiving as the body to investigate skydiving accidents.
6. British Skydiving's Chief Operating Officer, Tony Butler, and Safety and Technical Officer, Jeff Montgomery, or in their absence their appropriately qualified nominees, are on call to advise and investigate accidents in the sport. The person in charge (on duty) at each British Skydiving Affiliated Parachute Training Organisation (parachuting drop zone) has their contact details (mobile phone number).
7. It is usually most helpful to the British Skydiving accident investigators if skydiving equipment can be left in situ, although we recognise that this may often not be possible as equipment may need to be cut or removed in an effort to save an injured skydiver's life. Video or other images of the accident victim in situ, especially before any skydiving equipment has been removed, may provide important technical information to the British Skydiving's investigators and its subsequent Board and Panel of Inquiry.
8. British Skydiving liaises closely with the police in the case of a skydiving accident or incident and (far more rarely) in cases where police believe a crime may have been committed.

British Skydiving the Trading name for British Parachute Association Ltd

Our values: Commitment to excellence - Honesty and openness - Respect, integrity and trust - Building our knowledge

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