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

1. Police officers (unless they happen to be sport parachutists themselves) may be unfamiliar with the environment of sport parachuting drop zones or sport parachuting displays. These notes are intended as a brief introduction when police are called to a sport parachuting accident or incident, including a serious or fatal accident.
2. Police officers may naturally at first designate the scene of a sport parachuting accident as a crime scene. Investigation most often reveals there not to have been a crime committed, but to a sporting accident. Sport parachuting/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. BPA asks all sport parachutists and sport parachuting drop zones to co-operate fully with the police.
4. Sport parachuting accidents and incidents, including fatal accidents, are investigated by specialist accident investigators from the British Parachute Association (BPA), the not-for-profit National Governing Body of the Sport.
5. BPA regulates safety in sport parachuting through an Exposition of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), which recognises BPA as the body to investigate sport parachuting accidents.
6. BPA'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 BPA Affiliated Parachute Training Organisation (parachuting drop zone) has their contact details (mobile phone number).
7. It is usually most helpful to the BPA accident investigators if parachuting 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 parachutist's life. Video or other images of the accident victim in situ, especially before any parachuting equipment has been removed, may provide important technical information to BPA's investigators and its subsequent Board and Panel of Inquiry.
8. BPA liaises closely with the police in the case of a sport parachuting accident or incident and (far more rarely) in cases where police believe a crime may have been committed.

### **British Parachute Association Ltd**

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

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