

SAFETY INFORMATION

2/23

Next Century Primary Drogue Release Handle Recent Incident Involving Handle Breaking In Use

On the 15th December 2023 a Primary or Main Drogue Release Handle broke when pulled on a Next Century container. The Tandem Instructor realised what had happened and pulled the Secondary drogue release handle. The main canopy then deployed without further incident.

The handle broke under the crimped area so that the plastic handle and tuck-tab came off, leaving the remaining cable in place (see image 1 below).

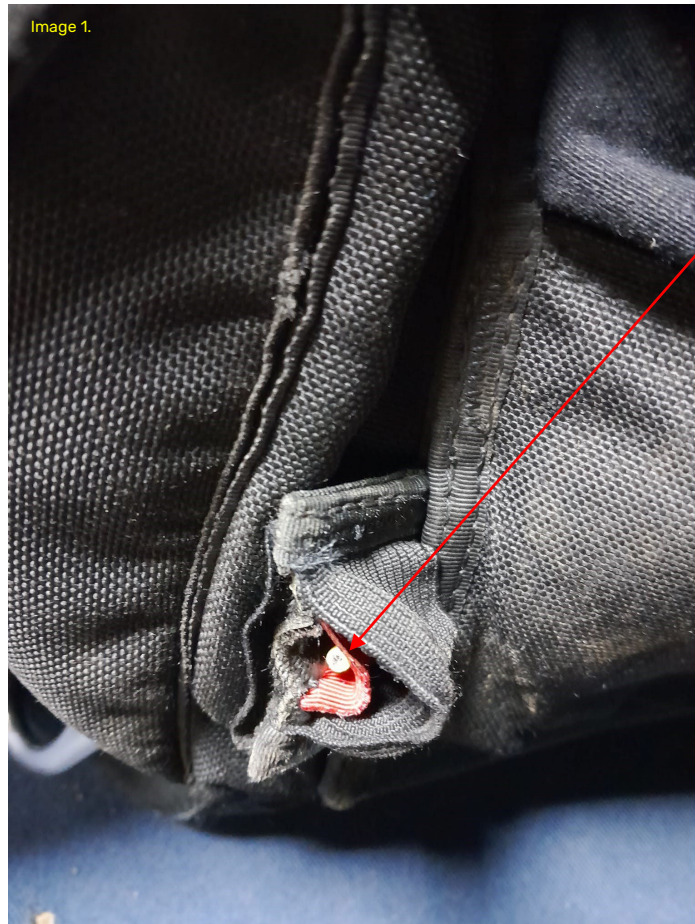


Image 1.

Remaining drogue release cable exposed after handle has sheared off.

Photo taken from Next Century Owner's Manual.



Image 2.

Representation of the plastic tuck-tab handle in a serviceable condition.

The Tandem Instructor placed the damaged handle in their pocket; however, this fell out shortly after and has not been recovered. It is not known if the drogue release handle was original from the manufacturer, or a spare manufactured in house.

It is unknown if as to whether any possible damage may have occurred during the manufacturing process of the handle, or simply due to wear and tear of the cable.

If any effected release handles are found, please report back to British Skydiving, with supporting photographs, serial numbers, and Date of Manufacture for the tandem container.

It is highly recommended that all Primary and Secondary Drogue Release handles are checked for damage or abnormalities.

It may also be worth considering any other hidden areas, that are not always seen as part of a packing process, such as:

- ***Kill line attachment points.***
- ***The sheath on the kill line connector link.***
- ***Main closing pins (flex pin).***

21 December 2023

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Distribution

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Maintaining the highest safety standards in our sport.

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