



**NTSB** National Transportation Safety Board

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*Office of Aviation Safety*

# Safety of Parachute Jump Operations

# Parachute Jump Operations

- Transport parachutists for jumping
- About 2.2 to 3 million jumps per year
- FAA has no data for flight activity, total operators
- USPA has about 270 operator members

# Parachute Jump Operations

- Part 91 revenue flights allowed within 25-mile radius
- Variety of aircraft
  - Single-engine airplanes, 3 or 4 passengers
  - Twin-engine airplanes, 20 or more passengers

# Fatal Accidents Since 1980

- 32 accidents, 172 fatalities
- Accident rates, statistical risk analyses cannot be calculated
- Recurring safety issues identified

# Safety Issues

- Inadequate aircraft maintenance and inspections
- Pilot performance deficiencies in basic airmanship tasks
- Inadequate FAA oversight and direct surveillance



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