

### **Is skydiving safe?**

Yes, With today's modern equipment and decades of previous experience skydiving today is safer than it has ever been before. Any parachute system you jump will have both a main and a reserve canopy.

### **What about tandem jumps?**

When making a tandem jump you will be in a harness strapped to the front of a very experienced "Jumpmaster". A tandem jumpmaster has made at least 1000 jumps before (and in many cases several thousand) and went through a rigorous training program to become a tandem jumpmaster.

### **Helicopter or Aeroplane?**

You can jump from an aeroplane anywhere in the world. Here in Switzerland the helicopter is the workhorse of the mountains and readily available for us to take advantage of. Where else can you stand outside on the skid before you jump. We use very powerful modern machines typically the Eurocopter AS350 Ecureuil (Squirrel) which flies as high as any skydive aeroplane see the same helicopter we use land on Mount Everest Summit.

### **What does freefall feel like?**

Freefall is a comfortable sensation like floating on a cushion of air. Freefall is the closest thing to human flight, especially when falling "relative" with other skydivers. In relation to other skydivers in the air, a jumper can move forward, backwards, up, down and all around in the sky. He or she can dive vertically over 200 mph or achieve horizontal movement over the ground up to 60 mph. The constant air flow allows aerial maneuvers with precision and control.

### **What is opening and flying the parachute like?**

The opening "shock" of the parachute is much like jumping feet-first into a pool of water. The opening takes about two to five seconds and is not uncomfortable. Square parachutes are simple to maneuver and steer to the ground. Steering lines are attached to the rear right and left side of the parachute. By taking the controls in each hand, one steers the parachute by pulling on one control. To turn left, simply pull down the left control. To stop the turn, simply return the control to its original position.

### **What are the physical requirements?**

Although skydiving is not a strenuous sport, people who are in reasonably good shape enjoy it more and are less likely to suffer an injury. Certain conditions -- epilepsy, obesity, heart problems and others -- might preclude someone from jumping.

### **After my first jump, what's next?**

Basic parachute training consists of a series of jumps made under the direct supervision of an instructor. Each jump is preceded by a session on the ground followed by a jump. It takes from about 10 to 15 jumps until the student is competent enough to be cleared to jump without instructor supervision. Since most students are weekend skydivers who make two or three jumps a day, the typical student takes about a month to graduate.

After graduation, the new jumper practices his skills and learns new ones. He or she becomes eligible to earn licenses that attest to the jumper's competency.

From there the sky's the limit. The new skydiver has the freedom of the sky to share with others who enjoy the exciting sport of skydiving.

More info :

<http://www.dropzone.com>

<http://www.uspa.org>