

## Winch Parachute Trial Conclusions and Recommendations

### Conclusions

- The trial shows that for normal conditions and techniques, both the large and small parachutes are safe to use with Dyneema rope.
- Winch driver reaction time is critical. Much larger delays than 1 second have been noted in the past, and could prove more critical than the scope of this trial suggests.
- Pilot reaction also effects clearance, but to a much lesser degree.
- For a pilot initiated release, the parachute **will** inflate on release. For a stronger headwind, it is possible that the parachute could remain inflated for much longer (despite stopping the drum), and could detrimentally effect margins.

### Recommendations

- Winch driver reaction time is critical. Winch drivers should be appraised of this trial, with the immediate actions following a cable break (real or simulated) re-emphasised
- This trial did not simulate a shallow / fast climb and simulated or weak link cable break with aggressive reaction from the pilot. It is expected that clearance margins would be much reduced under these circumstances. Instructors are urged to delay release and guard the controls (forward stick) should the launch be abnormally shallow and / or fast.
- Skylaunch and BGA advice to carry out **winch initiated** simulated cable breaks below 200' should be considered for individual launches