

Applies To

All Free Flight Enterprises emergency reserve parachutes.

Background

A practice parachute deployment showed a potential deployment problem with Free Flight emergency reserve parachutes. If the canopy skirt is at the side of the deployment bag, and you make the first line stow in the grommet closest to the skirt, it is possible to have a few lines stay in the rubber band while the rest of the lines pull on the skirt of the canopy. The lines pulling on the skirt then make the skirt push on the deployment bag flap, which causes the rubber band to get tighter on the lines still in the stow. This in turn causes a higher than optimum force to get the canopy out of the deployment bag. It is critical that all the lines come out of the last rubber band stow before any lines can pull on the skirt. There is a lower likelihood of this problem on the Lara Gold series of parachutes because the lines are thinner and more slippery than the nylon lines used on all other Free Flight Enterprises parachutes.

Service Procedure

There are two ways to solve this potential problem.

- 1) **If the skirt is at a corner of the deployment bag, make the first line stow in the grommet that is furthest from the skirt of the canopy, OR**
- 2) **Pack the canopy so that the skirt ends up in the middle of the deployment bag opening .**

If you are not comfortable re-stowing the parachute lines and bridle after checking for this problem, we recommend that you take your harness and parachute to your dealer.

We have discussed this with Betty at High Energy Sports. She agrees with the recommendations above, because her deployment bag is very similar to Free Flight's.

