



2023 Safest Year Ever for U.S. Skydiving

Fatalities halved from 2022, tied with 2021 as safety record for skydiving continues to improve

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – The [U.S. Parachute Association \(USPA\)](#), a nonprofit association dedicated to the promotion of safe skydiving nationwide, has released its annual summary of civilian skydiving deaths. In 2023, close to 42,000 USPA members made approximately 3.65 million jumps at more than 200 USPA-affiliated skydiving centers across the country. Of those, **USPA recorded 10 total civilian skydiving fatalities**, or 0.27 fatalities per 100,000 jumps. This ties 2023 with [2021](#) with 10 fatalities, but edges out 2021's 0.28 per 100,000 rate, making **2023 the safest year for skydiving since record keeping began in 1961**.

The annual summary has overall shown a downward trend in fatalities. It also illustrates that tandem skydiving, when a new skydiver is attached to an experienced instructor for the jump, has an even higher safety rate, with an average of one student fatality per 500,000 jumps over the past 10 years.

The reduction in fatalities from 2022 and the low overall rates are a testament to the vigilance of drop zone operators, safety and training advisors, instructors, the skydiving industry as a whole and the jumpers who perform daily.

“Every loss of life is tragic, particularly for the loved ones who are left behind. It may not ease their grief, but I hope those families find some comfort in the rarity of skydiving fatalities and know that the sport gets safer every year,” said USPA Executive Director Albert Berchtold. “Decades of strict safety standards, training policies and programs have contributed to the ever-dwindling rate of fatalities. We look forward to reinforcing safety techniques and advancements with jumpers around the world on USPA Safety Day.”

Established in 1997, USPA Safety Day is held annually on the second Saturday in March and provides a global forum at local drop zones to prepare jumpers for the year ahead. Safety Day promotes safety programs and helps inform jumpers of new developments, review important information and procedures, and participate in hands-on activities, including reviews and practice of safety procedures, equipment evaluations and more.

The **2024 USPA Safety Day is March 9** with the theme “Stay Alive – Practice Five,” emphasizing five key safety techniques: Rear-Riser Turns, Braked Turns, Half-Braked Flares, Reverse Turns, and Low-Turn Recovery.

[Click here](#) to learn more about skydiving safety, and [click here](#) to find your local drop zone participating in USPA Safety Day.

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About USPA

Founded in 1946, the United States Parachute Association (USPA) is a nonprofit association dedicated to the promotion of safe skydiving nationwide, establishing strict safety standards, training policies and



programs at more than 200 USPA-affiliated skydiving schools and centers throughout the United States. Each year, USPA's 41,000-plus members and hundreds of thousands of first-timers make roughly 3.65 million jumps in the U.S. USPA represents skydivers before all levels of government, the public and the aviation industry and sanctions national skydiving competitions and records. For more information on making a first jump or to find a skydiving center near you, visit www.uspa.org or call 1.800.371.USPA.

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