

Snake River BASE Academy

Higher Education for Lower Freefall

Incident Report: Bryan Turner

Bryan Turner was killed in a BASE jumping accident on March 9, 2015 at approximately noon. Bryan was jumping from the regular exit point of the Perrine Bridge over the Snake River Canyon in Twin Falls, Idaho, USA. He experienced a closed container impact in deep water. He was unconscious from impact onward, but was breathing upon initial recovery. His breathing stopped after recovery onto dry ground, and CPR was initiated by jumpers on the scene approximately 5 minutes after impact. Professional rescuers arrived via helicopter shortly thereafter and Bryan was transported to St Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center. He was pronounced dead by a physician in the Emergency Department around 1:30pm.

Bryan took a short delay (approximately 1.5 seconds) with a closed container and the pilot chute (PC) stowed in the bottom of container (BOC) pouch.

Bryan's PC throw was normal and the pilot chute inflated as expected, achieving full inflation and bridle extension.

The PC exerted appropriate pull force, as demonstrated by the bridle clearing the channel on the bottom flap of the container (clearly visible on the video).

The bottom pin remained in the closing loop until impact at approximately 5.25 seconds. During the freefall, Bryan was in various body positions, beginning slightly head high, then rotating head low, and finally rolling onto his left side, which was his body position at impact. The bridle was pulled in various directions by the full force of the PC. In addition, Bryan managed to grasp his bridle in his hand for approximately .75 seconds near the end of the freefall, but was unable to manually extract the bottom pin.

On gear inspection, the top closing loop was found intact, and the bottom loop was found broken, which almost certainly indicates that the bottom pin was still in the loop at impact, but the top pin had cleared the top loop.

The cause of the container lock cannot be determined with complete reliability. Various malfunction modes have been discovered on another container similarly configured, and are detailed in a separate document.

Weather:

The weather at the time of the accident was mild, with temperatures around 60 degrees (F) and very light winds. Wind at exit was approximately 3-4 miles per hour in the tailwind direction. Winds at landing were negligible.

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Equipment:

Container: Helium

Size: He-5

Serial Number: 1373

Date of Manufacture: September 2011

Manufacturer: Morpheus Technologies, Zephyrhills, Florida, USA

Canopy: Troll MDV

Size: 265

Serial Number: 39380304

Date of Manufacture: March 2004

Manufacturer: Atair, Skofja Loka, Slovenia

Pilot Chute: Zero Porosity A/V (apex vent)

Size: 42"

Date of Manufacture: Approximately 2013

Manufacturer: Asylum Designs, Auburn, California, USA

Bridle: 2 pin

Top pin fixed, bottom pin floating

The bridle was constructed by Bryan Turner (the jumper) sometime in the summer of 2014.

Closing Loops:

The intact closing loop on this rig was found to be large enough to admit the eye of the pin on the bridle.

Other factors:

Bryan packed this rig at Centennial Park (at the bottom of the canyon). He was slightly rushed to finish his pack job, because the other jumpers there had finished packing and were returning to the bridge and he wanted to ride in their van back to the top.

Bryan did not receive a gear check from any other jumper prior to exit.

This report was compiled by Tom Aiello from video, jumper interviews and gear inspection immediately following the accident.

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