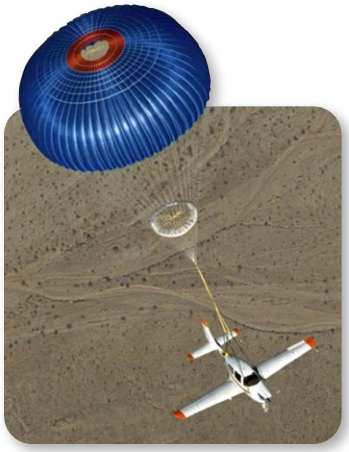
NTSB | National Transportation Safety Board

SAFETY ALERT SA-102

FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

On-Scene Hazards of Ballistic Parachute Recovery Systems

Scan to learn more at ntsb.gov



Source: NASA

Ballistic parachute recovery systems (**BPRS**) are **rocket-powered** parachutes installed on some airplanes as an optional safety device.

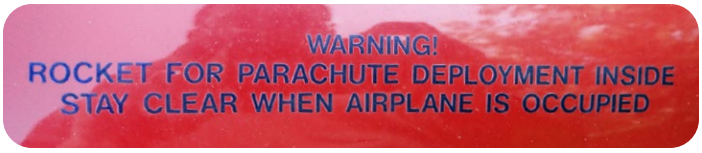
While these systems can save lives when activated and deployed in flight, **they pose a hazard to first responders at an accident site if the rocket did not activate before or during ground impact.**

Prevent injuries when responding to an aircraft accident site: identify and notify.

1 IDENTIFY THE BPRS

Look for **warning labels** on the fuselage that may indicate where a rocket would leave the airplane. If you see such a label, avoid that area.

If a parachute deployed and is still attached to the airplane, **do not enter the airplane until the parachute is fully collapsed**, as it could reopen, catch the wind, and drag the airplane.



Use caution inside the cabin. **Avoid any red T-shaped handles** as such a handle could activate a BPRS.

If you must cut through the fuselage to free an occupant, **avoid cutting the activation cable** of the BPRS. If you **need** to cut the cable, be aware that this could activate the rocket. All non-essential personnel should be cleared from the area, and essential personnel should identify and remain clear of the BPRS rocket tube. Be aware that **the activation cable may be under tension and near its breaking point**, which could activate the rocket at any time.

2 NOTIFY NTSB: (844) 373-9922

Once a BPRS is identified on scene, immediately notify the NTSB by calling the 24/7 Response Operations Center at **(844) 373-9922**. A duty officer will assist in contacting the manufacturer for instructions on how to disable a rocket.