



# **EAC**

## **No. \_101\_2**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>NAME</b>
<b><u>EAC 101 2</u></b>	<b><u>Safe Use Of Balloon Drop Line</u></b>
<b><u>1.</u></b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b><u>2.</u></b>	<b>Use</b>
<b><u>3.</u></b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b><u>4.</u></b>	<b>Necessity For Use</b>
<b><u>5.</u></b>	<b>Safety Instructions</b>
<b><u>6.</u></b>	<b>Location</b>
<b><u>7.</u></b>	<b>Handling</b>
<b><u>8.</u></b>	<b>Precautions</b>

---

## Safe Use Of Balloon Drop Line

### 1. Definition

A rope or webbing, which may be deployed by the pilot to ground crew to assist in landing or ground handling of a balloon.

### 2. Use

A Drop line allow ground crew to assist the pilot in landing in a confined area, or to move the balloon to an area better suited for deflation and retrieving.

### 3. Responsibility

Use of drop line is the pilot decision only .( when it deemed necessary for the safety of PAX ,balloon etc ) .

### 4. Necessity For Use

A good time to use a drop line would be if the balloon is becalmed in an area where it cannot land. Some specific examples would be if it was over water, over a planted field, over a congested area such as houses or over a forested area. If there is no wind to move the balloon away from the obstacle on the ground the pilot will throw his drop line to a crew member on the ground. The balloon can then be maneuvered to a clear area to land. This is one of the times where gloves are mandatory in ballooning. Do not try to handle the rope or webbing with bare hands. This is the quickest way to get a rope burn.

### 5. Safety Instructions

- (1) When an inexperienced crew person gets a drop line for the first time the tendency is to pull down. **DO NOT PULL DOWN.** This will usually pull the balloon down on to the obstacle it is trying to avoid.
- (2) At the direction of the pilot, you will be pulling the balloon to the side, away from the obstacle. Be very careful that there are no power lines in the vicinity as even rope or webbing can carry enough electricity to cause serious bodily injury. If a drop line is thrown and it comes into contact with a power line **DO NOT TOUCH IT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!**
- (3) With several people handling a drop line they should all be as close together as possible, forming one restraint point. If you have two or three people at the end of a drop line and one person 20 to 30 feet further up on the line, that single person could get picked up into the air if a gust of wind came along.
- (4) Make sure that the other end of the drop line is secured to the basket before throwing out the line. It has happened the pilot throws out the drop line and the whole line comes falling down to the ground because one end was not secured to the basket. It is also a good idea to have the drop line attached to the basket with some kind of quick release. This will allow the line to be released should it become fouled in trees, power lines or some other unpleasant thing on the ground.

### 6. Location

Drop line must be located in the basket, free and away of cylinder hoses/any obstructions, the proper stowage location will be in the basket interior side ,in the pilot area ,along with the fire extinguisher & first aid kit .

**7. Handling**

When used, one end of the rope must be fixed in the carbine which connects the envelope with the basket; the other end must be thrown out of the basket.

**8. Precautions**

- (1) A drop line should never be used in a windy situation such as trying to get into a short field at 10 to 20 mph. A balloon moving at this speed has so much momentum that two or three people at the end of a drop line will just get dragged along the ground. Please do not let yourself get into a situation like this as it can be very dangerous. You could be dragged into some solid object on the ground that could cause serious injury.
- (2) Drop line must not be released and fixed in the basket as part of balloon preparation for flight under any circumstances.