

PARACHUTE PANIC

By Micah Mayhak

Nick Forester (age 14 and very athletic) was preparing to parachute from a plane for his first time. Mike (the pilot) turned around and asked if he was ready. "Yes," an excited Nick answered! Nick stepped to the door opened it and jumped. A thousand feet down he pulled the ripcord to open his blue parachute... but it would not open! A few moments later he entered a cloud. Nick frantically tried to find his ripcord to open his red emergency parachute but he couldn't! Panicking, Nick reached over his shoulder and ran his hands over the pack on his back. Then with a sigh of relief he found the ripcord, pulled it and his parachute opened. But when he came out of the cloud his eyes got wide when he saw where he was going to land... in a redwood forest! He must have changed direction in the cloud! He had slowed down but he was still headed for the trees. When he crashed into the trees he got stuck tight. He shouted for help but nobody heard him. Nick was worried because the slightest movement could rip his parachute and he would fall about 50 feet to the forest floor. Suddenly he remembered he had a flare in his pocket! Nick slowly reached around , pulled it out, lit it and threw it into the air. A minute later he felt his parachute start to rip! Then he saw a group coming. Nick recognized Mike (his pilot) and some firemen. "We saw your flare," Mike said. They had brought a tarp so Nick could jump down. Nick unbuckled himself and jumped down. He grinned, and said to Mike, "next time I'll double check my equipment before I jump!"

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