

Chicagoland Skydiving Center

1207 Gurler Road
Rochelle, IL 61068
815.561.3663



Contact - Douglas Smith

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Email - dsmith@skydivesc.com

EXPERIENCED SKYDIVER SUCCUMBS TO INJURIES AT ROCHELLE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Rochelle, IL - On Wednesday, July 9th, 2025 at approximately 6:45pm CST, an experienced, licensed skydiver, age 40, with more than 2900 skydives succumbed to fatal injuries sustained at the Rochelle Municipal Airport (RPJ).

The incident involved a collision between two jumpers while under parachute. One jumper landed safely and was taken to a local hospital as a precaution with non-life threatening injuries. The other jumper experienced a hard landing while under his secondary (reserve) parachute, resulting in fatal injuries. Prior to the collision, the free fall portion of the skydive was normal and all equipment functioned correctly. 16 other jumpers had exited from the same aircraft and landed without incident. The weather conditions during the time of the incident were clear skies with WNW winds 5 - 8mph.

The name of the deceased is being withheld until all next of kin have received news of the jumper's untimely passing.

At this time, the team at Chicagoland Skydiving Center remains focused on supporting those involved and assisting investigators. No further statements will be made at this time

The skydiving community is a tight-knit group, and any loss is deeply felt throughout the sport. The management of Chicagoland Skydiving Center offers its sincerest condolences to the family of the deceased and the many friends who had shared the skies with him throughout the years.

More information on skydiving safety statistics can be found at www.uspa.org/discover/faqs/safety.

Please address all inquiries to Douglas Smith at dsmith@skydivesc.com