BASE (Building, Antenna, Span, and Earth) JUMPING

While BASE jumping itself is not illegal, what you will find is that trespassing or other such codes like stopping on a bridge make getting on top of the object illegal. BASE Jumping deaths are, sadly, all too common. While the equipment used is designed to be as safe as possible, and experienced jumpers take every precaution to ensure nothing goes wrong, the sport is inherently dangerous. Statistics kept by Blinc Magazine suggest that in the 34 years between April 1981 and October 2015, there have been in excess of 270 fatalities during BASE jumps. That's almost eight deaths a year.

Step 1: IDENTIFY THE HAZARDS: Let's look at the hazards associated with BASE (Buildings, Antenna, Span, and Earth) Jumping:

- Lack of proper training (BASE school; Sky Diving Expert)
- Trespassing laws/Authorities
- Strong winds
- Landing area
- Parachute failure
- Incorrect equipment
- Collision with other jumpers

Step 2: ASSESS THE RISK: Then assess the impact of each hazard in terms of potential loss and severity:

- Do I have enough training? It is recommended by many BASE jumping equipment manufacturers that jumpers complete a minimum of 150 to 200 skydives before they try BASE jumping. If you ask some BASE jumpers, they will say 1,000 skydives.
- Rushed departure to avoid authorities. Done late at night.
- Wind go/no-go criteria?
- Could I be blown into nearby power lines or into the road or water?
- No reserve. Hand release?

- BASE Jumping chute and sliders?
- Possible crashes if multiple jumps leave a small platform.

Step 3: MAKE RISK DECISIONS: Once you have identified the hazards and assessed the associated risk, you should develop risk control options. Start with the most serious risk first and select controls that will reduce the risk to a minimum consistent with mission accomplishment. Decide on some controls that can be employed to reduce or mitigate the hazards:

- Become an experienced skydiver first (500 jumps?). Consult with experienced BASE jumpers and attend a certified BASE jumping school.
- Find a legal place to jump where there will be no interference from outside authorities to distract you. Do not attempt at odd hours or in darkness.
- Determine a go/no-go criteria for local winds. Don't jump if winds are over the limit you feel comfortable with.
- Scout area prior to jumping. Make sure landing zone is clear. Use assistants to keep landing zone clear.
- Check main parachute. Determine if lack of altitude requires a hand release.
- Use specially designed ram-air parachutes with specially modified sliders.
- Give yourself plenty of distance/time between jumpers and objects. Determine space available at launch point.

With selected controls in place, decide if the benefit outweighs the risk.   If risk outweighs benefits or if assistance is required to implement controls, communicate with higher authority in the chain of command.   You need to either accept the risk, avoid the risk, reduce the risk, or spread the risk.   Do not make dumb decisions.

Step 4: IMPLEMENT CONTROLS: Once you select appropriate controls, implement them! A plan is only good if it is followed.

Step 5: SUPERVISE: As always, the situation is subject to change quickly.   Monitor the situation and adjust as necessary to keep things under control.   BASE jumping is much more dangerous than Sky Diving. Use risk management to make your experience memorable and safe.   No one wants an outing to turn into a tragedy!

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