

Name: _____ Class: _____ No.: _____ Date: _____

Smokejumpers

- Extreme Risk
 - Smokejumpers are wildfire firefighters who parachute down to wildfires that are far from roads.
 - Smokejumpers and hot shots have the same mission: stop wildfires before their destructive energy destroys the forest, kills the animals, or threatens human life.
 - The firefighters create a firebreak, a wide dirt barrier, which is essential in helping to stop the spread of a wildfire.
- Jumping into a Fire
 - Danger lurks all around the smokejumpers. If the fire rages out of control, rescuing the smokejumpers will be difficult and dangerous.
 - Smokejumpers work together and help one another to make it through a long day—or days—of wildfire fighting.
- Jumpsuit and Safety Gear
 - Smokejumpers wear lightweight jumpsuits made of fire-retardant material.
 - Smokejumpers' jumpsuits help protect them from extreme heat and are specifically made to keep them cool.
 - The jumpsuits are either bright orange, white, or yellow. These colors can be easily seen from the air and through the trees.
 - Jumpsuits are padded to break the fall of a parachute jump. It also has several large pockets for carrying small tools and the all-important safety line ladder.
 - A smokejumper's helmet is made of aluminum because the metal is lightweight and strong.
 - The helmet also has a face mask that protects a smokejumper from branches when he or she lands in a tree.
 - The goggles protect the eyes from wind, flying embers, branches, and smoke.
- The Parachute
 - Parachutes must be packed in a certain way for them to unfold properly during a jump.

- o A poorly packed parachute could tangle in its own ropes and send the smokejumper crashing to the ground.
 - o The parachute is attached to their backs by a harness, which keeps the jumper attached to the parachute during the fall.
 - o An emergency parachute sits in a pack against the jumper's stomach.
- The Jumpmaster
 - o The jumpmaster does not jump with the smoke-jumpers. Their job is to make sure that the smokejumpers are jumping from the right place in the air so that they will land safely near the fire.
 - o The jumpmaster makes sure that the plane is in the right position for smokejumpers to jump out safely by dropping crepe paper streamers out of the plane from 1,500 feet.
 - o Smokejumpers use the parachute "shroud lines" attached to the chute to steer toward the landing zone—and away from the fire.
- Bundled Tools
 - o Once the smokejumpers are on the ground, the plane circles the area and drops more parachutes that hold packages containing tools, food supplies, or other equipment.
 - o Color-coded supply parachutes save smokejumpers valuable time.
 - Red = shovels and saws
 - Yellow = food supplies
- Ready to Move Out
 - o Before they get to the fire's edge, the smokejumpers must determine where the fire is, where it might be heading, and the best way to tackle the blaze.
- Getting Home Safely
 - o The first order of business is to keep everyone safe. Safety precautions are taken before, during, and after a fire is fought.
 - o When the fire has been smothered and all the work is done, the team radios its base and calls for a helicopter to come pick the smokejumpers up.