Smokejumper Magazine, January 2004

This issue of the National Smokejumper Association (NSA) Smokejumper Magazine contains the following articles: Interview with Pioneer Smokejumper—Jim Alexander (Jim Budenholzer), First Actual Fire Jump (Rufus Robinson), Second Fire Jump (Earl Cooley), Thoughts on Changing the System (John Culbertson), Mike Adams remembered, Smokejumper Involved in Biggest Upset in Collegiate Sports History (Chuck Sheley), Milford Preston remembered, Remember Smokejumpers Who Died in Laos (Fred Donner), Bob Schlaefli (pilot) remembered, Willi Unsoeld (Bob Moffitt), Profiles Albert Gray and Rich Grandalski. Smokejumper Magazine continues Static Line, which was the original title of the NSA quarterly magazine.

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Smokejumpers ranged far and wide across the northland. And they walked into as many fires as they parachuted into. The concept of delivering personnel to wildfire by parachute grew out of the need to reduce the length of time required to adequately mobilize resources to wildfire, thereby reducing the cost associated with fighting wildfire. Smokejumping proved so successful that soon all areas of the continental United States employed smokejumpers as their primary initial-attack resource. The quick response time, large payload, low cost and impressive safety record of fixed wing aircraft has ensured that smokejumping remains the dominant initial attack resource in the United States.