

Text adapted from
Trapped on Higgins Ridge
*Smokejumpers: Battling the
Forest Flames*, Daniel Briscoe

On August 4, 1961, twelve smokejumpers parachuted to a fire in Montana where strong winds were blowing, and the fire raged out of control.

Then the wind changed. The fire began to spread in the opposite direction. The smokejumpers became trapped. “The fire exploded like a blowtorch,” one jumper said later.

The two crews looked for safety on a burned-out section. Some took their shirts and soaked them in water. They wrapped the wet shirts around their heads for protection.

Soon flames surrounded them. The firefighters were in deadly danger until a helicopter appeared from the smoke clouds above and carried them to safety.

QUESTION: Besides brave, describe another trait that smokejumpers demonstrate. Support your thinking with textual evidence.

QUESTION: Besides brave, describe another trait that smokejumpers demonstrate. Support your thinking with textual evidence.

