

 **OSRE**
SPECIALIST RESCUE EQUIPMENT

BY **NORTHERN DIVER**

RESCUE LINE MANUAL

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Thank you for purchasing this Northern Diver Rescue Line. To help ensure your future safety, do not use this product before reading this manual. It is important to fully understand its proper handling for safe usage.

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OVERVIEW

Rescue Line is a safety equipment item that you should have handy when near or on any water. These devices should be used by a person who is not in distress to help someone who is in the water and cannot return to either shore or the watercraft. They are meant to be used in emergencies and are not for everyday use.

Rescue Line is a device with a length of rope stuffed loosely into a bag so it can pull out through the top when the bag is thrown to a swimmer. It is a standard piece of rescue equipment for water recreational activities. Bright colors make them easy to locate in an emergency.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Remove the throw bag from the watercraft, being sure to untie or unclip it from being secured to anything. If it is strapped to your waist, remove it. The throw bag should be completely removed and unattached from everything and everyone.

Open the mouth of the throw bag so that the rope can be freely removed from the bag without restriction. You may need to squeeze the plastic retainer on the drawstring to open the bag.

Hold the bag in the hand that you plan to throw the bag with. Remove the end of the rope from the other hand and hold it firmly.

If the swimmer is being carried downstream, plan to throw the bag downstream or ahead of the swimmer. If you simply aim for the swimmer chances are the bag will land upstream or behind him or her since they will continue moving while the bag is in the air.

Try to get the swimmer's attention, with whistle blasts or shouts, before throwing the rescue bag. If you have their attention before you throw, they can move to the rope if you miss. You will throw the bag and not the end of the rope. Be sure to hold onto a significant portion of the rope end securely. A second person can also hold the rope end, providing additional support. Throw the bag with the rope in it using an underhand motion. Don't worry about throwing the bag downstream of the swimmer as they should be able to swim to it.

If you miss with the first throw, pull the bag in, coiling the rope at your feet or in your hand. The bag should be full of water, giving it enough weight to toss again. You can also throw the coil of rope, although you won't be able to get the same distance. Be careful not to get tangled in the loose rope.

NOTE: You should have a knife in case you need to cut yourself or others free.

The person in the water should let go of the watercraft if he or she is clinging to it and swim in the water to the rope.

Note: Swift-moving water puts amazing pressure on a swimmer. When the rope becomes taut, the shock on you and the swimmer can pull the rope from your hands. Try to minimize that shock by slowing the swimmer's progress more gradually by moving along the bank or letting out some line.

For a stronger grip than just holding the rope in your hands, borrow a climber's technique, the "belay". Pass the rope across your back, down low on the hips or higher across the shoulder. You can sit and brace your feet against rocks or the boat. Another rescuer can assist by grabbing your PFD and helping with the brace. You can also apply friction to the rope by wrapping or bending it around a tree, rock, etc. Again, do not tie the rope to yourself or an object.

The swimmer should hold the rope and not the bag. At this point the current will do the work. Both people involved in the whitewater rescue, the rescuer and the person being rescued, should just hold securely onto the rope. If there is another person with the rescuer, that person should also hold onto the end of the rope providing even more support. The water will carry the person downstream causing him or her to swing toward the shore.

You should try and plan for where you can bring the swimmer to shore, ideally into an eddy or slower water; not into rocks, holes or other obstacles. For your protection, always wear your PFD when assisting in a rescue, should you get pulled into the water. Once the person gets to shore help him or her to safety.

Do not throw the rescue line behind the swimmer as they won't be able to swim upstream to get to it.

Do not throw the bag using an overhand technique. It won't go as far and is less accurate.

The rescuer needs to throw the bag and not the rope.

The person being rescued from the water needs to grab the rope and not the bag.

If the swimmer holds onto his or her watercraft it will generate a lot of force on the rope. In this case, more than one person should hold the other end of the rope. If there is a tree nearby the rope can be wrapped around the tree for further support.

As the rescuer, it is important that you are in a secure position and are ready to handle the weight of the swimmer grabbing onto the device. Throwing the device to the swimmer can be done from the shore or from the boat.

Practice using the device to prepare for emergency situations; don't let an emergency catch you unprepared. It is important to inspect the device regularly to ensure components of product are in working order. It is also important to always wear a PFD when near or on the water.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Rope

All our devices are supplied with floating safety line that has a continuous stranded polypropylene core which provides flotation to the wear-resistant braided nylon sheath.

Nylon rope is strong, the high tensile strength of nylon permits the use of smaller diameter rope to obtain the equivalent strength of larger rope made from different materials. The advantage of using smaller ropes is that they are easier to handle and require less space for storage. Nylon has high resistance to abrasion, high tensile strength and has basic properties resistant to moisture and most chemicals. However acids and ultraviolet rays will harm nylon after repeated or concentrated exposure. Nylon stretches more than other synthetic or natural ropes without permanent damage to its fibers or construction.

Polypropylene rope floats and is best suited for use where buoyancy is a major factor making it perfect for water rescue. It has excellent resistance to rotting, mildew and abrasion and has moderate elastic properties and about 60% of the energy absorption capacity of nylon but maintains a low breaking strength.

Construction, the rope is jacketed composed of a braided sheath over the main load bearing core. The core consists of continuous parallel fibers throughout the length of the rope. This increases rope stretch resistance and load characteristics. The sheath is a braided jacket with half of the strands having a left twist and the other half having a right twist. The sheath provides up to 25% of the ropes strength. With this type of construction the sheath absorbs most of the abrasion and protects the load-bearing core. This construction type is most commonly used for rescue rope.

MAINTENANCE

Safety rope should be inspected monthly and after each use. If a problem is noted during inspection it should be reported immediately and the rope should be retired from service. You should check for the following:

- Damage to the sheath
- Visible damage to the core
- Soft or hard spots
- Glazed surfaces
- Discolouration
- Variations in diameter
- Chafed areas
- Broken fibers
- Chemical contamination
- Burns or melted spots
- Heavy surface fuzz
- Stiffness

The inspection should be done by an experienced person deemed qualified by the department.

CARE & STORAGE

Rinse off any excess dirt with a hose. Then soak the rope for about 30 minutes in a plastic tub of water (a specialist cleaner can be used if required). Rinse the rope by pulling it through a rope washer twice. Then hang the rope in a cool, shady place to dry.

Rope that has come into contact with blood or other body fluids can be cleaned using chlorine bleach per your department's protocols for decontaminating equipment. Tests have indicated that a 10-minute soak in a 10:1 water-bleach solution resulted in a 2% loss of strength in the rope. While this has minimal effect on the rope, the cumulative strength loss from repeated decontamination of a rope is not known. At some point, it is best to replace the rope.

Do not step on ropes

Protect ropes against chaffing and running over sharp corner or edges

Protect ropes from exposure to acids, alkalis, exhaust emissions, rust & other chemicals

The life of the rope will be determined by how well it is cared for and the use it has had

Store rope in a cool dry area

Do not store when contaminated with dirt or grit

Keep out of direct sunlight

Do not store with knots left in the rope. Knots left in for extended periods will become difficult to untie. Once untied after a long period of time the rope where the knot was will be weaker than it was before the knot was in place.

LOG

It is recommended that rope usage should be logged and each rope should have its own identification code, marking and rope log. As a general rule rope should be used for a maximum of 5 years once issued (unless condition or usage dictates an earlier life span). Rope can be stored for up to 5 years before being issued this means that if rope is purchased and stored for 5 years but never issued and used, it should still be destroyed after 10 years.

Rope ID:	
Diameter:	
Length:	
Model:	
Colour:	
Purchased from:	
Purchase date:	
Date in service:	

Date	Inspection / use	Name



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