

**OUTLINE SHEET 4.3
PRIMARY RESCUE DEVICES
AND PROCEDURES**

ENABLING OBJECTIVES:

- 3.28 Explain the functional operation of the following Rescue Devices per NTTP 3-50.1:
- a. Double Rescue Hook
 - b. Modified Rescue Strop
 - c. Rescue Litter/SAR MEDEVAC Litter, Trail Line and Gloves
- 3.29 Demonstrate procedures for placing a survivor into the following rescue devices in a water environment:
- a. Double Rescue Hook
 - b. Modified Rescue Strop
 - c. Rescue Litter/SAR MEDEVAC Litter
 - d. Rescue Litter Sling Assembly

TOPIC OUTLINE

A. COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES:

1. Efficient communications keeps the ship, boat crew, deck crew and swimmer aware of a developing rescue situation and allows rescue platform to provide needed support to swimmer (i.e. deployment of rescue devices).
2. The radio offers an optimal secondary means of communications.
3. _____ are the primary means of communication between rescue swimmer and the rescue platform in a maritime environment.
 - a. All crewmembers must be familiar with the meaning of standard hand signals.

B. DOUBLE RESCUE HOOK

1. The Double Rescue Hook is the _____.
- a. All other rescue devices can only be used with the Double Rescue Hook.
- b. Load ratings of the Double Rescue Hook (per the NAVAIR 13-1-6.5):
 - (1) Large hook, rated at _____ lbs., shall be the only hook to hoist _____.
 - (2) Small hook, rated at _____ lbs., is to be used only for lightweight items such as mail.
 - (3) The equipment ring, rated at _____ lbs., is used to hoist light equipment and mail.

**OUTLINE SHEET 4.3
PRIMARY RESCUE DEVICES
AND PROCEDURES**

c. Night-time Illumination

- (1) Attach chemical light strap to _____ and attach _____ to strap.

2. Procedures for forecastle recovery by Rescue Hook.

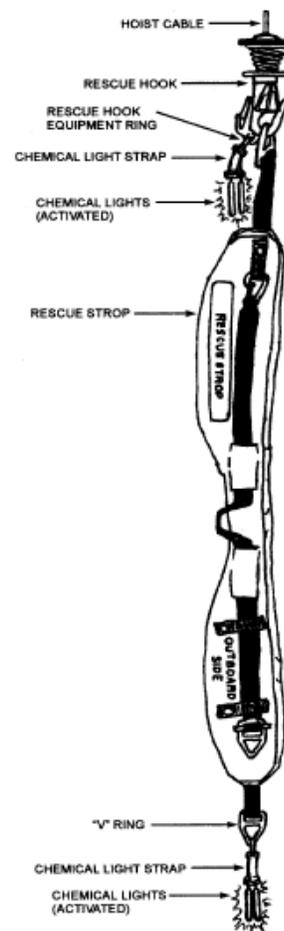
WARNING

When connecting to a survivor who has an SV-2 vest, ensure that the chest strap on the survivor is loosened slightly to avoid injury to the survivor.

- a. Perform approach and disentanglement procedures as necessary.
- b. Attach swimmer's tending line to the gated "D" ring located on the right shoulder of the pilot's torso harness if needed.
- c. When the rescue swimmer and survivor are ready to be hauled back the ship, the rescue swimmer shall position pilot and a thumbs-up signal to commence hauling in.
- d. Once under the davit, the swimmer gives a closed fist signal to stop hauling in. Position pilot under davit and attach largest hook of the double rescue hook to the "D" ring on the torso harness or "D" ring on the right shoulder of non-ejection aviators.
- e. Rescue swimmer connects the surface swimmer harness "V" ring to the large end of the double rescue hook.
- f. Rescue swimmer signals ship, "Ready to be hoisted".

C. MODIFIED RESCUE STROP

- 1. Rescue device used with Double Rescue Hook. The Modified Rescue Strop is a buoyant device with a red waterproof cover designed to accommodate _____ survivor. A webbing strap runs through the cover and has a "V"-ring at both ends for attaching the _____. Two arm retainer straps are attached _____.
- 2. Night-time Illumination
_____ Chemlights are attached to the chemlight strap. The strap is attached to Rescue Strop lower "V" ring.
- 3. Procedures for use:



**OUTLINE SHEET 4.3
PRIMARY RESCUE DEVICES
AND PROCEDURES**

NOTE

Arm retainer straps shall be in the _____ position when lowering the Rescue Strop.

- a. Signal for pick-up.
- b. Once under the davit, the swimmer signals a closed fist to stop hauling in.
- c. Approach hoist with survivor in an appropriate carry.
- d. Working _____ the survivor, with the arm retainer straps _____, the rescue swimmer shall pass the _____ of the strop under one arm, around the back and under the other arm.
- e. Connect the Rescue Strop free end lifting “V” ring to the large hook.
- f. Position the Rescue Strop tightly under the survivor’s _____ and on the upper half of the _____.

WARNING

Arm retainer straps shall always be used when hoisting survivor with the Rescue Strop. This prevents the survivor’s arms from _____.

- g. Pass the arm retainer straps _____ the survivor’s arms, route _____ and across the survivor’s chest.
- h. Connect the snap-hook arm retainer strap to the “V” ring arm retainer strap.
- i. Pull webbing on the “V” ring arm retainer strap until the arm retainer straps are secured tightly around the survivor’s arms.
- j. If swimmer is to be hoisted, connect swimmer’s lifting _____ to large hook.
- k. _____.
- l. Signal “Ready for pick-up”.
- m. Rescue swimmer and survivor are hoisted up. After reaching the rescue platform, the rescue swimmer and crew shall assist the survivor.

**OUTLINE SHEET 4.3
PRIMARY RESCUE DEVICES
AND PROCEDURES**

- n. Once the survivor is on the rescue platform, the rescue swimmer shall maintain _____ of the survivor until the crew gives a thumbs up. A thumbs up indicates to the rescue swimmer that the crew has positive control of the survivor in on the rescue platform.

E. RESCUE LITTER/SAR MEDEVAC LITTER

1. Litter Characteristics:

- a. Both are for use with suspected _____ victims and _____ survivors.
- b. Both are designed to be used _____ or in water with _____ assemblies.
- c. Rescue Litter requires a flotation kit for over water use. When flotation is installed litter floats with survivor's head slightly reclined from the vertical.

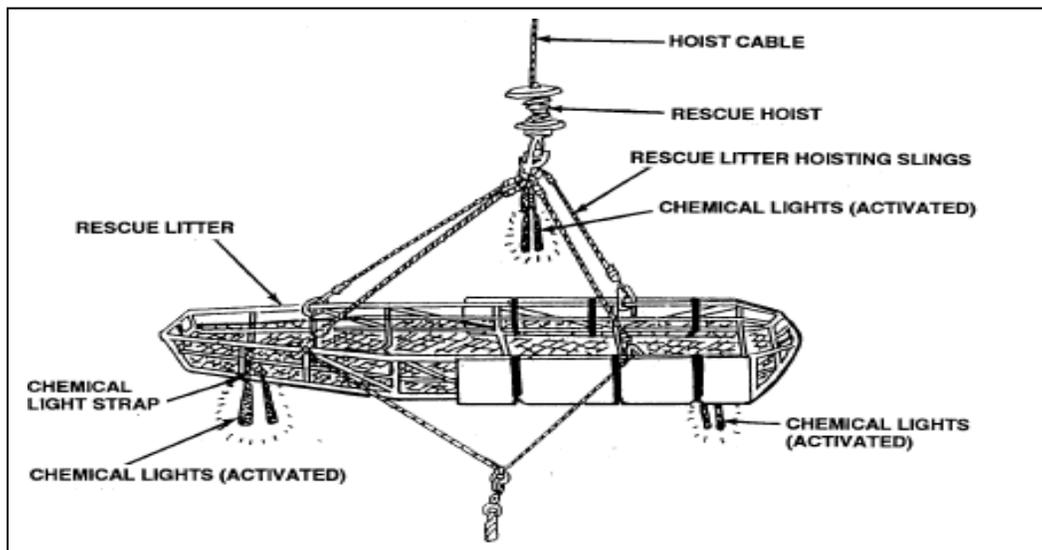
WARNING

If survivor is wearing the bright orange Quick Donning Anti-Exposure Suit it may counteract the self-righting feature of the Rescue Litter and the SAR MEDEVAC Litter.

- d. Both have a two piece rescue litter hoisting sling, which are attached to the Double Rescue Hook. Sling is color coded short _____ and long _____.
- e. The SAR MEDEVAC Litter folds in half and can be stored in a backpack and weighs approximately _____. It can be hoisted _____ or _____ with its own sling, making it especially useful in restricted access situations.
- f. Night-time illumination.

Two chemlights are attached to each strap. One strap is attached to the _____ of the litter, one to the _____.

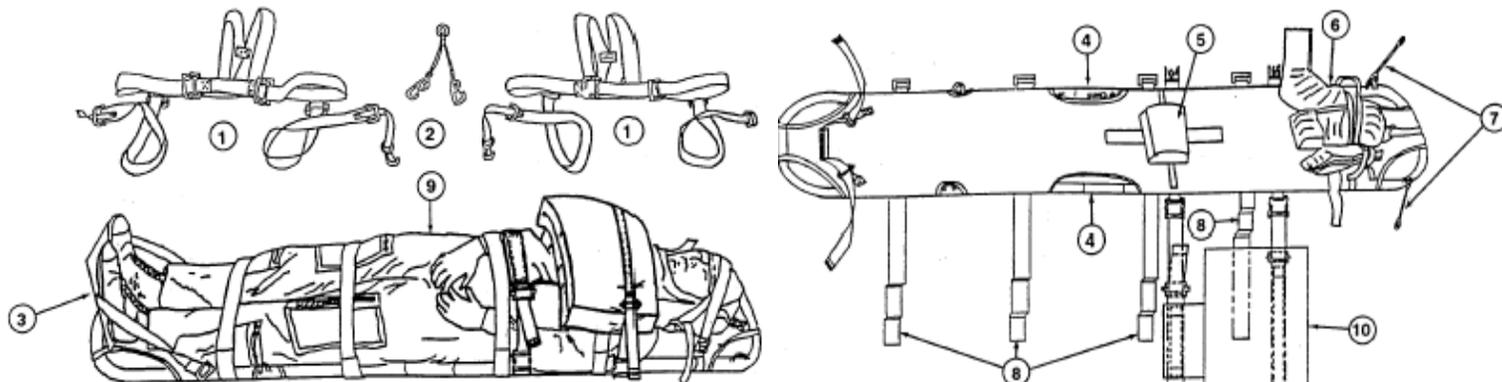
- g. Both litters utilize a _____ controlled by the swimmer in the water to control litter deployment and stabilize the litter during hoisting.



**OUTLINE SHEET 4.3
PRIMARY RESCUE DEVICES
AND PROCEDURES**

- (1) _____.
 - (2) Three eights inch thick polyethylene, diamond-braided line.
 - (3) A weak link is incorporated, designed to break if the trail line becomes entangled.
 - (4) Gloves and line are deployed together via a _____ shot bag.
2. Securing Survivor to the Rescue Litter (Stokes Litter) :
- a. Rescue Litter has _____ straps. They are stowed with four retaining straps.
 - b. Procedures for securing survivor:
 - (1) The rescue swimmer shall guide the survivor into the positioned litter by using the collar tow or equipment carry.
 - (2) Once positioned, the swimmer shall take the top restraint strap from the front of the litter and secure it around the survivor’s chest. The strap is pulled loose from the right side, placed under the arms but over the chest, and attached to the fitting on the left.
 - (3) Next, working from the chest strap down, secure the rest of the restraint straps.
 - (4) Once the restraint straps are secured, attach the chest pad over survivor’s arms. The rescue swimmer may encounter some difficulty if survivor has flotation; however, flotation shall not be removed. Instead, remove chest pad from litter and continue with rescue. If practical swimmer will return chest pad back to rescue platform when hoisted.

**OUTLINE SHEET 4.3
PRIMARY RESCUE DEVICES
AND PROCEDURES**



- 1. ADJUSTABLE CARRYING HARNESS 2 EA
- 2. VERTICAL HOISTING SLING
- 3. FOOT RESTRAINT ASSEMBLY
- 4. LOCKING COUPLERS
- 5. LUMBER SUPPORT PADS

- 6. HEAD RESTRAINT
- 7. HOISTING CONNECTING CABLE
- 8. PATIENT STRAPS
- 9. PATIENT IN LITTER
- 10. CHEST FLOTATION

3. Securing survivor to the SAR MEDEVAC Litter:

- a. Litter will need to be assembled by _____ prior to lowering to swimmer.
- b. Litter has integral _____ and head restraint, four survivor restraint straps, one chest flotation pad assembly strap, and one _____ assembly.

c. Procedure for securing survivor:

- (1) The rescue swimmer shall guide the survivor into the positioned litter by using the collar tow or equipment carry.
- (2) Once positioned, the swimmer shall take the top restraint strap from the front of the litter and secure it around the survivor's chest. The strap is pulled loose from the right side, placed under the arms but over the chest, and attached to the fitting on the left.
- (3) Next, working from the chest strap down, secure the rest of the restraint straps.
- (4) Properly adjust foot restraint assembly.
- (5) Once the restraint straps are secured, attach the chest pad over survivor's arms. The rescue swimmer may encounter some difficulty if survivor has flotation; however, flotation shall not be removed. Instead, remove chest pad from litter and continue with rescue. If practical swimmer will return chest pad back to when hoisted.
- (6) Secure head restraint assembly if possible. Do not remove survivor's helmet if _____ injury is suspected.

**OUTLINE SHEET 4.3
PRIMARY RESCUE DEVICES
AND PROCEDURES**

4. Forecastle Litter procedures:

NOTE

When the rescue swimmer reaches a distance of 20 to 25 feet from the ship he or she will signal stop hauling. The rescue swimmer shall maintain a distance of 20 to 25 feet to prevent being battered against the ship.

- a. Signal for litter. (_____ will come out first.)

WARNING

The weight bag shall be deployed so as not to strike rescue swimmer or survivor.

- b. The _____ shall deploy the trail line ensuring that it is attached to the litter. The gloves shall be tied on by a slipknot located just above the weight bag.

WARNING

The rescue swimmer _____ wear trail line or authorized rescue swimmer gloves with leather palms in order to prevent rope burns to the hands.

- c. Put on gloves
- d. The rescue swimmer shall pull on the trail line gently until the entire line is deployed.
- e. Signal _____ indicating ready for litter.
- f. Use trail line to _____ the litter and pull it into position as it is lowered.
- g. The ship lowers the rescue litter into the water with hoisting slings attached to the rescue hook behind the litter.
- h. Disconnect one set of the hoisting slings from the rescue hook, placing the hoisting slings outside the litter. Do not allow hoisting slings to foul restraining straps.
- i. Position survivor on litter, adhering to warning regarding survivor’s buoyancy and self-righting feature of the litter.
- j. Once the survivor is secure in the rescue litter the swimmer will disconnect one litter hoisting sling from the rescue hook. Swimmer then reconnects the litter hoisting slings back in the front of the rescue litter.
- k. The rescue swimmer shall give a thumbs-up signal indication, “ready to be hoisted.” When the survivor is planed out, the swimmer will signal “stop hoisting”.
- l. Conduct pre-hoisting safety check, ensuring survivor is securely within litter, litter is attached to large hook, _____, sling cables are in correct

**OUTLINE SHEET 4.3
PRIMARY RESCUE DEVICES
AND PROCEDURES**

positioning, _____, and cable is clear and not wrapped around the litter or swimmer. Signal “ready to be hoisted”.

m. Signal “ready to be hoisted”.

NOTE

Extreme care shall be utilized during train line evolutions in shallow waters. Cease hoisting immediately if the weighted bag becomes snagged on the bottom. Hoisting when this occurs may cause possible harm to personnel and/or equipment.

- n. By the use of the trail line and flutter kicking away from the ship, the rescue swimmer shall steady the litter during the hoisting operation to ensure the litter remains parallel and does not strike the ship.
- o. With the litter and trail line on board, the crew shall lower the rescue strop and recover the swimmer.

5. Procedures for rescue boat recovery by rescue litter

- a. The rescue swimmer shall give the verbal/hand signal for the rescue litter.
- b. The litter shall be placed in the water, back against the gunwale/tube, with the head of the litter out of the water.

NOTE

The hoisting sling and trail line assembly shall not be attached to the rescue litter for rescue boat operations.

- c. The rescue swimmer shall place the survivor in the rescue litter utilizing proper procedures.
- d. Once the survivor is secured in the litter, the rescue swimmer shall give a thumbs-up signal to the boat officer.
- e. The boat officer will then direct the crew to retrieve the survivor aboard the rescue boat.

G. NIGHT UTILIZATION OF RESCUE DEVICES.

Normal hook up procedures are used at night. Chemlights are attached as appropriate.

WARNING

Due to low visibility at night, the Rescue Swimmer must pay particular attention to ensure all safety straps, harnesses, ect. Are properly installed. Failure to do so could result in _____ to the survivor/Rescue Swimmer.

**OUTLINE SHEET 4.3
PRIMARY RESCUE DEVICES
AND PROCEDURES**

H. RESCUE EQUIPMENT INSPECTION.

1. Visual inspection prior to use.
 - a. Inspect fabric for cuts, deterioration, and _____.
 - b. Inspect seams for proper adhesion and stitching.
 - c. Inspect all hardware for security of _____, and if applicable, ease of operation.
 - d. Check for sharp edges and projections.
 - e. _____ inspection cycle for equipment conducted by maintenance personnel.

WARNING

Unauthorized modification to, and deviation from, prescribed life support and survival equipment by individual crewmembers could create unknown safety hazards.