

Aviation Rescue Swimmer School

Disentanglement Procedures (Back Pack)

LT 3.7

Enabling Objectives

- List disentanglement procedures for personnel wearing U.S Navy Back Pack parachute assembly.

Warning

- Inhalation of composite fibers resulting from aircraft fires and/or aircraft material damage may be harmful to Rescue Personnel. If smoke is present, the Rescue Swimmer shall be deployed up wind and will approach the aircraft in a manner as to avoid any smoke. Discard wet suit if it becomes impregnated with composite fibers.

Note

- Equipment worn by the survivor determines the procedures to be used in parachute disentanglement.

Warning

- The parachute should never be allowed to come between the Rescue Swimmer and the survivor, as the Rescue Swimmer could lose sight of the survivor or could become entangled in the parachute or suspension lines.

Disentanglement Procedures for Back Pack Harness.

- 1. Assess situation to determine if survivor(s) conscious, unconscious, passive, or active. Assessing the situation begins before water entry. The situation may change at any moment.
- 2. Establish communication to determine the condition of the survivor and make approach. Ask “Are you OK”? The rescue swimmer shall continually evaluate the medical condition of a survivor during the entire course of a rescue.

Disentanglement Procedures for Quick Fit Harness.

- 3. Grasp survivor's harness between the shoulder blades and pull survivor into the wind and away from parachute. Obtain control of survivor "ICIC".
- 4. Remove oxygen mask, if applicable. CLEAR head, neck, and chest area. If survivor is conscious ask about any known injuries or conditions.

Note

- Check for breathing. Give two rescue breaths if required. Continue giving rescue breaths during disentanglement not to exceed 60 seconds between breaths until survivor is hoisted free of water.

Warning

- When the HGU series helmet is worn with the LPP-1 life preserver, do not inflate vest until chinstrap is loosened or helmet is removed.

Disentanglement Procedures for Quick Fit Harness.

- 5. Disconnect survivors quick ejector snap located on the chest and check flotation (inflate manually or orally, if necessary).

Warning

- If releasing the quick ejector snap is not done prior to inflation and the survivor is wearing an LPP-1, there is the possibility of the LPP-1 crushing survivor's chest. At a minimum, it will be hard for the survivor to breath. This warning applies to the U.S Chest pack, Back Pack, and Seat Pack Harness also.

Note

- If the survivor is wearing a Chest Pack, one of the Butterfly Spring Snaps, that connect the pack to the harness, must be released to gain access to the chest quickly.
- 6. Disentanglement from head to toe checking for injuries during disentanglement procedures.

Disentanglement Procedures for Quick Fit Harness.

- 7. Remove shoulder straps, SWEEP ARMS, ensuring that survivor's arms are completely clear of any debris. Once it has been verified that survivor's arms are clear, cross the arms across the survivor's chest.

Disentanglement Procedures for Quick Fit Harness.

- 8. Spinal Highway, using spine as a reference, submerge and proceed hand over hand, keeping one hand on the survivor at all times, and release quick ejector fittings on the survivors legs. After fittings are released, submerge as before and remove all parachute suspension lines from survivor's legs. Submerge as many times as necessary to remove all debris.

Warning

- If survivor has a suspected back injury, use the side of the survivor as a reference, proceed hand over hand along the side, keeping one hand on the survivor at all times, and remove all possible entanglements.

Disentanglement Procedures for Quick Fit Harness.

- Tow the survivor clear of the parachute. If the survivor is still not free of the parachute or harness, use the washboard method.
 - **Warning**
- If the survivor has a suspected back injury do not use the washboard method.
 - a. Grasp survivor with both hands on the back of the floatation device.
 - b. In quick succession, push and pull survivor fore and aft. Make sure that the survivor's head is kept above water.

Disentanglement Procedures for Quick Fit Harness.

- 9. Discard raft (if applicable).

Note

- At the discretion of the rescue swimmer the raft may be punctured with a knife and sunk before, during or after the survivor has been removed.

Warning

Loss of ABC's is a serious life threatening condition requiring immediate medical treatment. This condition takes precedence and survivor should be recovered by fastest means possible.

Disentanglement Procedures for Quick Fit Harness.

10. Perform final check head to toe to ensure all shroud lines and parachute suspension lines are clear.
11. Signal rescue platform.
 - a. Day – Arm raised, thumb up.
 - b. Night – Arm raised, waving high intensity chemlight.

Disentanglement Procedures for Quick Fit Harness.

12. As the helicopter is approaching:
 - a. Ensure the area clear.
 - b. Establish a left hand cross chest carry, while grasping the survivor's lifting "V" ring in your left hand.

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.

Disentanglement Procedures for Quick Fit Harness.

- c. With your right hand connect rescue swimmer's snap hook to survivor's "V" ring.
- d. Maintain left hand cross chest carry while grasping rescue swimmer's lifting "V" ring in your left hand.

Disentanglement Procedures for Quick Fit Harness.

13. Allow rescue hook to touch water, discharging static electricity.
14. Use appropriate procedures for rescue device selected.
15. Perform Safety Check on rescue device, signal up hoist.

Ballooned Canopy Procedures

1. Establish communications during approach to survivor.

Warning

Do not go under canopy; it may collapse and trap survivor and swimmer.

2. Swim to chute edge closest to survivor and opposite the apex.

Ballooned Canopy Procedures

3. Lift edge of parachute; pull one shroud line until survivor is within reach.
4. With free arm, turn survivor around and grasp back of harness; pull to edge of canopy.
5. In one motion, lift skirt over survivor's head and pull survivor clear.

Ballooned Canopy Procedures

6. With survivor out from under the parachute, continue pulling survivor into the wind and away from the parachute canopy.
7. When well clear of parachute canopy, use disentanglement procedures applicable to type of harness the survivor is wearing.

Questions?

If the survivor is wearing an LPP-1, what must be done prior to inflation?

Release the chest quick ejector snap.

How should a swimmer approach a ballooned canopy?

Swim to the chute edge closest to survivor and opposite the apex.