

INFORMATION SHEET 4.3-1

SAR TACTICS BASIC GUIDELINES

ASSESS THE SITUATION FROM THE RESCUE PLATFORM

RULE NO. # 1- NEVER pass a survivor by.

Establish communication to determine whether or not survivor is passive, active, conscious or unconscious. Execute approach, obtain positive “ICIC”, perform head neck & chest and inflate survivors’ flotation or chose to surrender yours if they do not have any or it is damaged beyond use.

EXAMPLE: If first survivor you come upon is passive and /or cooperative, be assertive and verbalize instructions such as grabbing a hold of or boarding a raft, taking off flight equipment. (This is referred to as “staging” or “safeing” your survivor and will provide flotation). Acknowledging their presence and assisting them is the objective.

Utilize the exact order of disentanglement procedures if you succeed in getting the survivor to remove his/her gear using verbal communication.

Conversely, if you come upon your first survivor and he/she is in a panicky “freaked out” state, execute the underwater approach (if there is no parachute in the immediate vicinity), and gain control with a controlled cross-chest carry. Remember to do head neck & chest and inflate their flotation. (This action alone may be enough to calm survivor.).

RULE NO. # 2- SURVEY ALL SURVIVORS ON THE SCENE.

Swim to next closest survivor and provide assistance if needed. A basic rule of thumb is to make sure that the survivor has adequate flotation before you move on to your next survivor.
*(“Staging” or “safeing” your survivor).

Once again, establishing verbal communication between your survivors is essential in determining who needs your immediate assistance and others that are in no obvious danger. DO NOT “ping pong” back and forth between survivors. This is a term used by instructors that simply means swimming back and forth between survivors without really making progress towards the ultimate objective of getting survivors to the rescue platform.

RULE NO. # 3- WORST RIDES UP FIRST!

After all survivors are staged, identify the most injured survivor and perform complete disentanglement procedures from start to finish, including a final check and get em to the rescue platform. If you remove any gear or shroud lines from a survivor you must do a final check no matter which type of survivor it is.

Continue on in this order and you cannot go wrong.

INFORMATION 4.3-1 (Continued)

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***SAFING A SURVIVOR**

Safeing a man-overboard /free floater consists of head, neck & chest, inflate flotation or buddy tow them to a raft and have them board it or hold on to its' side.

Safeing a quick fit harness/ backpack consists of a head, neck & chest, release chest quick-ejector, check flotation, sweep shoulder straps off.

Safeing a PCU torso harness consists of removing O2 mask, head, neck & chest, check flotation and releasing shoulder koch fittings.