

Surface Rescue Swimmer Course

Disentanglement Procedures
(Jet Aircraft)
LT 3.7

Objectives

- List disentanglement procedures for personnel wearing Jet aircraft survival equipment.
- Demonstrate disentanglement procedures for personnel wearing Jet aircraft survival equipment in day/night conditions.

NOTE

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

WARNING

Spinal immobilization is essential to ejection egress aircrew. Aircrew who eject from aircraft must be presumed to have spinal injuries. The rescue swimmer should treat all survivors involved in an incident with a "high index of suspicion" as a probable head, neck, or spinal injury regardless of whether the survivor reports any pain or injury.

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 AIRSAVE vest over Torso Harness

- **ASSESS** situation to determine if survivor(s) are conscious, unconscious, passive, or active. Assessing the situation begins before water entry. The situation may change at any moment.

Disentanglement Procedures for AIRSAVE vest over Torso Harness

- **ESTABLISH** communication to determine the condition of the survivor and make approach. Ask, "Are you O.k."? The rescue swimmer shall continually evaluate the medical condition of a survivor during the entire course of a rescue.
- Swim to the parachute edge closest to the survivor and opposite the apex of the parachute canopy.
- Lift the edge of the parachute, pull shroud line(s) until the survivor is within reach and the canopy is gathered into the rescue swimmers hand.

Disentanglement Procedures for AIRSAVE vest over Torso Harness

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

Disentanglement Procedures for AIRSAVE vest over Torso Harness

NOTE

If survivor is still wearing oxygen mask completely remove it from both bayonet fittings and push mask through chest strap, and away from survivor.

NOTE

CHECK FOR BREATHING. Give two breathes if required.

Disentanglement Procedures for AIRSAVE vest over Torso Harness

- Check flotation. (inflate manually or orally if necessary).
- Disentangle from head-to-toe, checking for injuries during disentanglement process.
 - Disconnect parachute risers by releasing shoulder kock fittings.
 - Remove parachute risers and place them to the side, ensuring they do not fall back onto survivor.

Disentanglement Procedures for AIRSAVE vest over Torso Harness

- SWEEP ARMS, ensuring that survivor's arms are completely clear of debris. Once it has been verified that the survivor's arms are clear, cross the arms across the survivor's chest.
- SIDE CONTROL, using the side of the survivor as a reference, proceed hand-over-hand along the:

Disentanglement Procedures for AIRSAVE vest over Torso Harness

- Left side, Move down towards the legs removing any shroud lines along the way. Release oxygen hose (if applicable) from RSSK, and then disconnect mini-Koch fittings on lap.
- Move back up the left side and go down the right side toward the legs, removing any shroud lines along the way. Disconnect the mini-Koch fitting on lap. This releases the RSSK.

Disentanglement Procedures for AIRSAVE vest over Torso Harness

- Move back down the left side and ensure there are no entanglements around the survivors left leg. Repeat for right leg.
- Tow survivor clear of parachute and 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 the fastest means possible.

NOTE

- The litter should be the primary recovery device if survivor is an ejected aviator or other survivor suspected of having a spinal injury based on swimmers evaluation.

Disentanglement Procedures for AIRSAVE vest over Torso Harness

- Perform FINAL CHECK, head-to-toe to ensure that all shroud lines and parachute suspension lines are clear.

NOTE

- Gated "D" ring may slip into the AIRSAVE Vest through opening provided for Torso Harness Riser. Locate gated "D" ring before continuing with disentanglement.
- SIGNAL rescue platform.
 - Day – Arm raised, thumb up
 - Night – Arm raised, waving high intensity chemlight.

Disentanglement Procedures for PCU/33

WARNING

- **Lack of respiratory function (breathing) is a life-threatening condition. If the survivor is not breathing, the rescue swimmer shall give two rescue breaths to the survivor, safely complete all applicable disentanglement/recovery procedures, and signal the rescue platform for immediate recovery of the survivor. After the completion of applicable disentanglement/recovery procedures, the rescue swimmer shall continue rescue breathing for the survivor every 15-20 seconds until recovery by the rescue platform.**

Disentanglement Procedures for PCU/33

- As the rescue boat is approaching
 - a. Ensure the AREA IS CLEAR.
 - b. Establish a left hand cross-chest carry, grasping survivor's gated "d" ring in your left hand.

Disentanglement Procedures for PCU/33

- If helicopter recovery, Allow RESCUE HOOK TO TOUCH WATER, discharging static electricity.
- USE APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES for rescue device selected.
- Perform SAFETY CHECK on rescue device, signal "ready for pick-up".

NOTE

If rescue scenario involves E-2C Hawkeye aircrew, all of the procedural steps are identical with those of ejection seat aircraft. The difference in gear is purely mechanical and will require deviations in technique only.

Review

When should the raft be punctured?

Before, during, or after the survivor has been removed.

Why is it important to remove the O2 mask from the RSSK/SKU?

So the RSSK/SKU will detach from survivor.