

**OUTLINE SHEET 3.6  
DISENTANGLEMENT PROCEDURES (BACK PACK)**

**ENABLING OBJECTIVES**

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

**TOPIC OUTLINE:**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_, as the rescue swimmer could lose sight of the survivor or could become entangled in the parachute or suspension lines.**

**A. DISENTANGLEMENT PROCEDURES FOR BACK PACK HARNESS**

1. **ASSESS** situation to determine if survivor(s) \_\_\_\_\_, 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, “\_\_\_\_\_”? The rescue swimmer shall continually evaluate the medical condition of a survivor during the entire course of a rescue.
  - a. Swim to the parachute edge closest to the survivor and opposite the apex of the parachute canopy.
  - b. 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.
3. Grasp survivor’s harness between the shoulder blades and pull survivor into the wind and away from parachute. Obtain control of survivor “\_\_\_\_\_”.
4. Remove \_\_\_\_\_, if applicable. **CLEAR** head, neck, and chest area. If survivor is conscious ask about any known injuries or conditions .

**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 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.

**WARNING**

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When the HGU series helmet is worn with the \_\_\_\_\_, do not inflate vest until chinstrap is loosened or helmet is removed.

5. Disconnect survivor's \_\_\_\_\_ located on the chest and \_\_\_\_\_ floatation (inflate manually or orally, if necessary).

**WARNING**

If releasing the quick ejector snap is not done prior to inflation and the survivor's is wearing an LPP-1, there is a possibility of the LPP-1 \_\_\_\_\_. At a minimum, it will be hard for the survivor to breathe. This warning also applies to the \_\_\_\_\_.

**NOTE**

If the survivor is wearing a chest pack, one of the \_\_\_\_\_, that connect the pack to the harness, must be released to gain access to the chest quickly.

6. **DISENTANGLE** \_\_\_\_\_, checking for injuries during disentanglement procedures.
7. Remove \_\_\_\_\_ **SWEEP ARMS**, ensuring that survivor's arms are completely clear of any debris. Once it has been verified that the survivor's arms are clear, cross the arms across the survivor's chest.
8. **SPINAL HIGHWAY**, using the spine as a reference, submerge and proceed hand-over-hand keeping one hand on the survivor at all times. Release quick ejector fittings on survivor's 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 \_\_\_\_\_. Proceed hand-over-hand along the side, keeping one hand on the survivor at all times, and remove all possible entanglements.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ method.

- b. Grasp survivor with both hands on the back of the flotation device.
  - c. In quick succession, push and pull survivor fore and aft. Make sure that the survivor's head is kept above water.
9. **DISCARD RAFT** (If applicable).

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**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.

- 10. Perform \_\_\_\_\_, head-to-toe to ensure that all shroud lines and parachute suspension lines are clear.
- 11. **SIGNAL** rescue platform.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ – Arm raised, thumb up.
  - b. Night – Arm raised, waving high intensity chemlight.

**WARNING**

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- 12. As the rescue/ helicopter boat is approaching:
  - a. Ensure the **AREA IS CLEAR.**
  - b. Establish a left-hand cross-chest carry, grasping 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.

- 13. Allow rescue hook to touch water, \_\_\_\_\_ static electricity.
- 14. Use appropriate procedures for rescue device selected.
- 15. Perform \_\_\_\_\_ on rescue device, signal "signal for pick-up".

**B. BALLOONED CANOPY PROCEDURES**

- 1. Establish communications during approach to survivor.

**WARNING**

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2. Swim to chute edge closest to survivor and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Lift edge of parachute; pull one \_\_\_\_\_ 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.
6. With survivor out from under the parachute, continue pulling survivor into the wind and away from parachute canopy.
7. When well clear of parachute canopy, use disentanglement procedures applicable to type of harness the survivor is wearing.