

**OUTLINE SHEET 4.8  
RESCUE BOAT OPERATIONS**

**ENABLING OBJECTIVES:**

3.38 List all procedures and equipment used for the rescue of an aviator by rescue boat.

**TOPIC OUTLINE:**

**NOTE**

The deployment method of the rescue swimmer shall be dependent upon the type of rescue boat utilized. This will require follow on training at your command.

**A. Rescue Boat Approach**

1. The rescue boat shall remain close, but stay clear of the rescue until the helicopter rotating anti-collision lights are turned off. At this signal, the rescue boat will assume the responsibility for the rescue.
2. Unless the boat coxswain can see the crash site, the boat should be maneuvered in accordance with radio communications or flag/pyrotechnics from the ship.

**B. Approach Survivor**

1. Upon approaching survivor in the water, the rescue boat crew must determine if the helicopter is successfully effecting the rescue.
2. The rescue boat shall never pass between helicopter and the survivor. This will avoid the possibility of becoming fouled in the helicopter hoisting cable when it is determined that the helicopter has yielded the rescue to the rescue boat.
3. The motor whaleboat approach should be made directly to the survivor, keeping the survivor on the port bow. The cast of the boat's screw in reverse will set the boat alongside the survivor.
4. The rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) boat approach should be made directly at the survivor, keeping the survivor on the bow until the swimmer is deployed. The RHIB is then brought alongside the survivor. The out drive allows the RHIB to be backed either to port or starboard.

**C. Rescue Boat Approach to Parachute**

1. Personnel in the water with a parachute attached, shall be approached with caution. The survivor may be entangled in the parachute shroud lines which may be submerged and not visible to the boat crew.

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2. In making an approach on the parachute, ensure boat speed is slow enough to avoid going over the parachute.

**D. Streamed Parachute**

1. A streamed parachute should first be hooked and pulled into the rescue boat. This will provide a positive means of preventing loss of the survivor.
2. If the survivor is entangled in the shroud lines, a swimmer should be put into the water to assist.
3. It has been found that when shroud lines are cut in the water, the problem of disentanglement increases; therefore, shroud lines should be lifted clear and pulled away from the survivor.

**E. Sinking Parachute**

1. If the parachute sinks below the surface before the boat hook snags it, the swimmer secures a line on the pilot and then attempts to free him of the parachute.
2. When the pilot is free of the parachute, he is pulled into the boat facing inboard to prevent injury to his back when coming over the gunwale.

**F. Rescue Priority**

1. The rescue boat shall attempt to rescue the MOST severely injured survivor first. (If the crewman is left by his aircraft, he is automatically reverted to survivor status).

**G. Rescue Position**

1. All rescue boat recoveries of personnel from the water shall be attempted with the survivor facing inboard of the gunwale of motor whale boats and outboard of the tube on a RHIB.
2. The rescue swimmer shall assist the survivor from the water.

**H. First Aid**

1. Once on board the rescue boat, the survivor's injuries should be investigated and first aid applied as necessary. Treat all survivors for shock.