

## Water Deployment Methods

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### 1. Description

There are different methods used to deploy a Rescue Swimmer into the water. This SOP summarises the methods that a Rescue Swimmer may consider using during a mission.

Only these procedures shall be used during training and operations. Only ASR rescue swimmers certified may use these deployment methods from a helicopter.

### 2. Definitions

Crew	Air Sea Rescue crew that are part of the National Sea Rescue Institute ASR Unit
ASR	Air Sea Rescue
RS	ASR Rescue Swimmer

### 3. Equipment required

RS will be dressed in a wetsuit and booties.
Hood and gloves are optional.
Harness and life jacket joined by a carabineer
Attached to the harness is a short sling and snap hook, clipped back onto the harness.
Fins ,Mask and Snorkel

### 4. Training Requirements

Pool Training	Initial training by instructor to be recorded in log books
Airborne	Minimum of 4 per year for each type of deployment

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### 5. Safety Considerations

A safety boat must be in attendance during training
Do not send a strop to a survivor without the RS, as it may become caught on entanglement hazards and survivors may not know how to properly use it
Direct grip deployment shall only be hoisted to a maximum of 10 feet
Survivors in the facing away position on recovery shall only be hoisted to a maximum of 10 feet, lowered back into the water and repositioned before continuing to hoist

### 6. Deployment Methods

Strop
Harness
Water Jump t
Harness / Strop using Trail Line
Direct Harness
Direct Grip
Direct double
Vertical Surface Deployment
Rope Repelling

#### Strop Deployment

Strop Deployment is only used when a harness is not available. The RS places the strop around his/her body under the arm pits and is hoisted. This is not the desired method for hoisting Rescue Swimmer and there is the risk of the RS falling out of the strop while working with a survivor.

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### Harness Deployment

This deployment is the preferred method of hoisting a Rescue Swimmer. A harness is worn by the RS and is attached to the hook using a snap hook. This provides for maximum safety and comfort

<b>Procedure</b>
The RS will don fins, Mask and snorkel. The mask and snorkel must be kept in position at all times during hoisting.
While being lowered on the RS Harness, the RS should try to maintain visual contact with the survivor.
After being fully immersed in the water the RS disconnects from the rescue hook and signals "I am OK"
After giving the hand signal, the RS swims towards the survivor

### Water Jump Deployment

Using Water Jumps to deploy a rescue swimmer is by far the most effective and efficient method. A minimum of two(2) Rescue Swimmers will be deployed by jumping out of helicopter into the water. The RS will be wearing a rescue harness that will provide flotation and be used for hoisting

<b>Procedure</b>
Refer to the SOP –Water Jumps

### Strop Deployment using Trail Line

The Trail line hoisting of a Rescue Swimmer may only be used when delivering the rescue swimmer to a vessel or onto the ground. It is not to be used for water deliveries or recoveries.

The Trail Line deployment is ideal for situations when stability of the Rescue Swimmer is desired for delivery to an unstable vessel. This may only be used with the harness and strop deployments. A quick release snap shackle and weak link must always be used.

The Trail Line is first delivered to the vessel as per SOP and then connected to the hoist hook. The RS will connect the harness or strop to the hoist hook an deploy

<b>Procedure</b>
Refer to the SOP –Trail Line

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### Direct Harness Deployment

This deployment is used to snatch a survivor out of the water as quickly as possible using a strop. A rescue Swimmer will be hoisted to just above the water. The helicopter will conn the RS to within 2 – 3 meters of the survivor and quickly lower the RS into water to allow the RS to place the strop around the survivor without disconnecting from the hoist cable. The helicopter will then recover the RS and the survivor back into the helicopter.

The extrication of the survivor can be made using two(2) methods

The survivor facing the Rescue Swimmer

The survivor facing away from the Rescue Swimmer

In this case during training the RS and survivor must not be lifted more than 10 feet and then lowered back into the water and turned around ready for hoisting.

### Warning

When using this procedure in heavy seas, the aircrew must take extreme care with the varying amounts of cable that may be paid out. Too little cable may cause the RS to be jerked out of the water as he/she enters the trough of the wave. Too much cable may cause the RS or survivor to become entangled in the cable prior to pickup. When used in high winds the aircrew must monitor wind gusts to compensate for sudden movements of the aircraft. The RS shall not disconnect from the hoist hook during this procedure unless there is grave and imminent risk of injury.

<b>Procedure</b>
The Quick Strop is attached to the hoist hook
The quick strop is placed around the RS head during deployment into the water
While being lowered the RS should try to maintain visual contact with the survivor
The RS should be placed within 2-3 feet of the survivor
Once in the water, the RS will quickly place the quick strop over the head of the survivor
Secure the friction keeper and signal “ready for pickup”
Straddle the survivor while being hoisted

## Water Deployment Methods

<b>Warning</b>
It is imperative that the RS keep one hand on the friction keeper and as tight as possible to the survivor, with legs around survivors arms until both the RS and survivor are secure on the deck of the aircraft.
The survivor is brought into the cabin first regardless.

### Direct Double lift (Hypothermic) Deployment

This deployment is used to recover a survivor with severe hypothermia. The “Survivor Strop” is used in conjunction with the “Quick Strop” to hoist the survivor in the semi-Supine” position.

<b>Procedure</b>
Refer to the SOP –Direct Double Lift Deployment

### Direct Grip Deployment

This deployment is used in an emergency to snatch a survivor out of the water without using a strop as there is no time. This is done by gripping the survivor and placing arms around the body of the survivor. This procedure places extreme physical stress onto the RS and should only be used when there is no other alternative.

The extrication of the survivor can be made using two(2) methods  
 The survivor facing the Rescue Swimmer  
 The survivor facing away from the Rescue Swimmer

In both cases, as this is a dangerous procedure, during training the RS and survivor must not be lifted more than 10 feet and then lowered back into the water and the procedure terminated.

Ideally there is no requirement to exercise this method using a helicopter. The direct Grip should be exercised only in a controlled pool environment

### Vertical Surface Deployment

Otherwise know as cliff walking. This is used to rescue a survivor that is stuck on a sea cliff. A RS would be deployed using the hoist and be lowered to the cliff face and walk down the cliff connected to the hoist cable.

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The RS will be dressed in overall. Wear standard harness and wear boots

This method is still to be approved as an ASR deployment method and is therefore not permitted until approved

### **Rope Repelling**

Rope Repelling is not permitted from a helicopter for ASR operations.

However, this technique must be mastered by all ASR crew and will provide the skills necessary for using rope rescue techniques effect the rescue of survivors onboard ships.

Rope repelling may be used on board a ship to gain access to survivors.

