

RESCUE PROCEDURE FOR THE FAST RESCUE CRAFT



1
Deployment of the cradle forms a non collapsible scoop.



2
Due to the scoop configuration the casualty can be floated into the cradle with minimum effort.



3
A co-ordinated and methodical lift takes place and the casualty is retrieved in the medically preferred and recommended horizontal position..



4
The lift takes no longer than 5 seconds due to the cradles 2 to 1 mechanical advantage.



5
The casualty is then face up on the sponson and first aid can commence if necessary.

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STEP 1

The rescuers should maintain a stable posture during the recovery of the casualty reducing the risk of falling overboard. The cradle forms a 2 to 1 mechanical advantage. Maintain an upright stance and avoid flexing the spine during the lift. It is recommended that work gloves are worn, this will not impede the rescue. It will help.

Approaching the Casualty the two crewmen will position themselves each side of the cradle - Crewmen 1 forward, Crewman 2 aft. Crewman 1 will be the casualty handler.



STEP 2

The final approach should be at slow speed. Crewmen 2 should deploy the cradle before reaching the casualty. Make sure he is on the windward side of the vessel. Do not wind the strop around your hand. A normal handgrip will suffice.

On reaching the casualty both crew should be in a kneeling position, Crewmen 1 will shout for the coxswain to halt. The casualty should be guided headfirst into the cradle. This may require the casualty to be turned in the water. Crewmen 2 will make sure the loop is wide enough. The casualty's arms remain inside the cradle.



STEP 3

The casualty should overhang the edge of the cradle slightly leaving the torso fully contained in the cradle. Crewman 2 should then pull the strop closing the loop and securing the casualty.

Crewman 1 should then adopt a standing posture kneeling on the sponson then assist by hold onto the free end of the cradle until Crewman 2 has adopted the same position.



STEP 4

A shared methodical lift of the casualty then takes place using an overhand grip holding the underside of the ladder and folding the sections of ladder away from you - two sections at a time. The casualty will then be face up on the sponson lent up against your knees. Both crew should take a firm hold of the casualty, then release the cradle into the water. The casualty can then be moved into the boat and given first aid if necessary.

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