

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Purpose: To provide Department personnel with information and instruction for tying off personnel and/or victims.
- B. Scope: This instruction applies to all sworn personnel.
- C. Author: The Deputy Chief of the Special Operations Bureau is responsible for the content, revision, and periodic review of this instruction.
- D. Objectives: To assist Department personnel with utilizing proper techniques when tying off personnel and/or victims, and maintaining uniformity Departmentwide.
- E. Definitions: See glossary.

II. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. All sworn personnel are responsible for the information contained in this section.
- B. Company officers/training captains are responsible for training personnel and ensuring proficiency with the information contained in this section.

III. POLICY

- A. All sworn personnel shall be able to tie-off themselves and/or victims by using the following methods:
 - 1. Emergency Rescue Strap™ Rescuer Sit Harness
 - 2. Emergency Rescue Strap™ Victim Sit Harness
 - 3. Hasty Chest Harness
 - 4. Chest Harness Rescuer
 - 5. Tag/Tether Line

- B. The order of preference for communications on tag/tether lines shall be:
1. Direct voice or visual contact
 2. Handi-talkie
 3. Rope pull
- C. All harnesses shall be checked twice prior to placing personnel in hazardous situations.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Emergency Rescue Strap™ Rescuer

1. Adjust the strap to make a loop approximately five feet in length. With the entire strap behind the body, place the buckle against the spine with your hands grasping the strap approximately two feet on either side of the buckle.



2. While releasing your grip on the strap, place your hands under the strap and reach down to grasp the strap hanging between your legs.



3. Maintain your grip on the strap with both hands, pull the strap back and under the portion of the strap originally held, forming two loops.



4. Maintaining your grip, pull your hands forward and towards one another. Hold both loops with one hand and place the carabiner through the loops.
5. While holding the carabiner in one hand, tighten the entire harness by pulling on the tail located at the small of your back. Secure the harness with a safety tie-off at the buckle.
6. Massage the safety tie-off firmly against the buckle. Tuck the remaining tail into a pocket.



B. Emergency Rescue Strap™ Victim Sit Harness

NOTE: See victim pick-off on page 7 and 8 of V4-C6-S10.

1. Adjust the strap to make a loop approximately five feet in length. Hold the strap across your wrists with the buckle close to your belt, making sure that the tail of the strap is hanging between the lower loop and your knees.
2. Approach the victim from the rear. Place the buckle even with the victim's spine as you reach around each side of their waist. Reach down and in front of the victim to grasp the strap hanging between their legs.
3. Let the strap slip off your wrists and down to form two loops and pull them outward. Hold the loops with one hand while you attach a carabiner to both loops. Clip down and flip up.
4. While holding the carabiner in one hand, tighten the entire harness by pulling on the tail located at the small of your back. Secure the harness with a safety tie-off at the buckle. Massage the safety tie-off firmly against the buckle. Tuck the remaining tail into a pocket.

C. Hasty Chest Harness

The hasty chest harness is to provide a quick attachment for a victim to the rescue system, or a fixed position. It is not intended to be used as the attachment point from which to raise or lower a victim.

1. Form a sling with a 12-foot (blue) webbing using an overhand follow through.

Place the knot at armpit level on the opposite side of the victim's body from where the attachment is to take place.

Bring the two bights of the webbing together at the place of attachment.



2. Pass one webbing bight through the other.



3. Place your hand through the webbing bight which was passed through, and grasp the lower bight.



4. Pull the lower webbing bight through the bight where the hand was inserted.



5. The hand not in use grasps the bights and pulls the harness snug, as the thumb holds the longer bight in position.



6. Attach a carabiner to the bight which was pulled through. This carabiner is now attached to the rescue system.

Note: The hasty chest harness is also referred to as a “locking larks foot”.



D. Rescuer's Chest Harness

This is used to provide the rescuer and/or victim a second point of attachment to a rescue system, as well as a backup to the sit harness in case of inversion.

1. Form a sling with a 12-foot blue webbing, using an overhand follow through. Place one arm through the sling and keep the knot on the back of the shoulder.



2. Reach behind the back and grasp the bottom of the sling. Bring it to the front, while passing it under the armpit on the side opposite of the knot.



3. Tie a locking larks foot (See Hasty Chest Harness)



4. Tie a half hitch with the longer bight by wrapping it around the narrow part of the chest harness and passing it under itself.

Note: To shorten the bight after the half hitch is tied, wrap the longer bight around the narrow part of the chest harness.



5. Attach a carabiner to the bight and clip it onto the chest harness at the lower portion of the wider part.



E. Rescuers Chest Harness (new)

This is used to provide the rescuer and/or victim a second point of attachment to a rescue system, as well as a backup to the sit harness in case of inversion.

1. Tie an overhand knot on a bight in the center of a 12-foot blue webbing. Keep the bight to the front of the shoulder.



2. Take the webbing on your front side and wrap it around your back and place the end through the bight, cinching it tight.

Now tie an overhand knot with the tail against the bight. This should leave about 12 to 18 inches of tail when finished.



3. Reaching behind your back grasp the webbing that's hanging down and bring it up over the opposite shoulder.



4. Tie a loose overhand knot, leaving about a foot of tail.



5. With the other webbing end, tie an overhand follow through and finish with a safety tie-off on each end.



6. Attach a carabiner to the bight to complete the chest harness.



F. Attachment to lifelines

The belay lifeline will attach to both the sit and chest harness with a figure eight on a bight, while the main lifeline will attach to the sit harness only.



G. Tag/Tether Line

1. Personnel entering a hazardous or smoky atmosphere can utilize a rope to maintain safety and/or stay in communication with a rope tender outside. This method will allow the rescuer to be located should the rescuer be in distress.

For short distances (less than 85 feet) the drop bag equipment line may be used; for longer distances the 250 foot lifeline rope shall be used.

2. The rescuer:
 - a. Shall keep slack out of the tether line and maintain constant communication with the rope tender.
 - b. Use a full arm swing to signal with the rope.
 - c. Acknowledge and obey all signals. Use judgment on receiving an advance signal.
 - d. Retreat with partner when signals are not acknowledged.



3. The rope tender
 - a. Shall attend only one tag line and keep slack out of the rope.
 - b. Maintain constant communication with the rescuer.
 - c. Acknowledge and obey all signals immediately.
 - d. Be alert to the extent of the fire and or other conditions of the building.
 - e. Send other firefighters to a rescuer in distress or when signals are not acknowledged. Do not wait for the "HELP" signal.

4. Communications

- a. The first choice of communication shall be by direct voice or visual contact.
- b. The second choice shall be by handi-talkie.
- c. The third choice shall be by manual rope signals.

Code	Tugs	Meaning	Rescuer	Rope Tender
O	1	O.K.	Transmits and Acknowledges	Transmits and Acknowledges
A	2	Advance	Going Ahead	Lets Rope Slide Through
T	3	Take Up	Moving Position	Keep Slack Out of Rope
H	4	Help	Coming Out Quickly	Sends Help