

LIFE-SAFER, INC.

1360 Rosecrans Street, Ste. H

San Diego, CA 92106

(619) 222-3467 / (888) 222-0373

The RETRIEVER PROJECT

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FACTS

- World-wide, roughly 500,000 people drown annually. *World Congress on Drowning*
- Since 1979, 5000 people drown each year in the United States. *American Red Cross*
- In additional 2 to 3% of “First-Responders” who attempt water-entry-rescues drown. *U.S. Lifesaving Assn.*
- Drownings are the fourth most common cause of death from unintentional injury in the United States. *National Safety Council 1998 (4400 people drowned).*
- An actively drowning victim has 60 seconds or less before submerging. *American Red Cross, “Lifeguarding Today”*
- Most drownings occur within 30 to 70 feet from shore. *LSI Acquired Data*
- More than one third of the adult population reported that they are unable to swim more the 72 feet. *Centers for Disease Control’s “LIFEGUARD EFFECTIVENESS REPORT/INJURY FACT BOOK”*
- Most drownings often occur on “sunny days” in front of horrified onlookers; and occur in calm (static) water such as unguarded ponds, rivers and reservoirs. *USCG Boating Safety Statistics (1994)*
- Non-buoyant rescue devices are appropriate tools only for those trained and prepared to execute water-entry-rescues, should the device take the victim under the water. *Excerpt taken from CDC’s “LIFEGUARD EFFECTIVENESS REPORT/INJURY FACT BOOK”*

STRATEGY

Our strategy of enabling the “First-Responder,” often a member of the local police or fire department, to emulate the basic functions of a lifeguard (provide buoyancy, create stability and effect recovery) or simply expand the survival window, while remaining safely out of the water, is a sound augmentation of the American Red Cross mnemonic: Reach, Throw, Don’t Go!

Many drowning victims have only a 20 – 60 second survival window. Only a rapid interim response delivered within this time frame will save these people. It will prove to be an effective means of reducing drowning fatalities.

EQUIPMENT

An analysis of equipment used for water emergency intervention (line bags, life rings, heaving lines, seat cushions, and rescue discs) found that each provided some but not all of the characteristics required of an effective tool for the “First-Responder” to safely emulate the functions of the lifeguard without entering the water.

REQUIRED CHARACTERISTICS:

- Sufficient reach to cover the 30 to 70 foot drowning zone
- Sufficient buoyancy (at least 50 Newton / 11 pounds)
- Rapid deployment allowing effective response within the 60-second survival window
- Fast retrieval and re-deployment
- Soft surfaces not likely to injure
- Simplicity of use by the “First-Responder”
- Compact, self-contained design for ease of transport and stowage
- Aero and hydro-dynamic to enhance delivery to person into the water
- Wind penetration



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A NEW TOOL

LIFE-SAFER, INC. is working to implement a new strategy as an effective means of extending the survival window or rescuing a drowning victim using a new innovative technology. The **PERSONAL RETRIEVER™** is the first rescue device that is compact, non-injurious and rapidly deployable. The disc was designed specifically for the demands faced by "First-Responders" during drowning interventions. Rescuers can with this device quickly and accurately provide 12 pounds of buoyancy out to 100 feet allowing them to emulate the basic functions of a lifeguard without getting their feet wet.



The **PERSONAL RETRIEVER™** ready for use. Lieutenant Brant Bass of the San Diego Lifeguard Service performs a textbook throw of the **PERSONAL RETRIEVER™** into San Diego's Mission Bay.

PERSONAL RETRIEVER™ specifications:

- Reach: 100 feet
- Buoyancy: 12 pounds*
- Deployment time: 10 seconds or less
- Re-deployment time: 45 seconds or less
- Material: Soft Expanded Polyethylene Foam Top and Propylene Base
- Diameter: 17 inches
- Weight: 1.5 pounds
- Training Time: One hour or less
- Rope: 650 pound test buoyant 3/16 inch polypropylene
- Design: Aero-dynamic and hydro-dynamic rotating wing
- Wind penetration: Full extension into 15-knot winds
- Coating: Petroleum resistant plasti-coat
- **PERSONAL RETRIEVER™** is \$89.95 plus S & H - *Pouch* \$19.95 (sold separately)

* The US & UK accept 50 Newton / 11 pounds of buoyancy now required in the Type 50 Buoyancy Aids as sufficient to keep a conscious person afloat.

For more information, visit us at www.life-safer.com or (619) 222-3467