

LIFE-SAFER, INC.

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Not all water rescue tools are equal!

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Most drownings occur in unguarded waters and frequently the would-be-rescuer is a “Good Samaritan” or a lone police officer or fireman who is often first to arrive on scene. Most of these “First-Responders” are not properly equipped to attempt a water-entry-rescue. Many are not physically conditioned for the demands they will face. There are few exceptions, as the loss of life among “First-Responders” has shown over the years. *Unlike the advanced response teams, the typical “First-Responder” has long needed a response tool specifically suited to their limitations as well as the demands they face during a water emergency.*

“REACH, THROW, ROW, TOW, GO!” or “REACH, THROW, DON'T GO!”

These two mnemonics are often heard during training within the rescue community. The first is appropriate for those groups that are capable of a water-entry-rescue. The second is a guideline set for the general population. But due to the loss of life of “First-Responders”, it is rapidly becoming the guideline for those public safety personnel not trained or equipped to perform water-entry-rescues. Both mnemonics indicate how far up the rescue response continuum a responder’s actions should go.

“REACH, THROW, ROW, TOW, GO!”

Lifeguards and other advanced water rescue teams have a wider variety of tools and options available to them during a water emergency. Often finding the person beyond their reach, they will throw the line bag. Most are aware of the distinct possibility that this or any other non-buoyant device possess the potential to take a victim under water, at which point they proceed up to the next level of response; launching a surfboard, a small boat or simply swimming out to make the recovery.

“REACH, THROW, DON'T GO!”

Unlike the advanced response teams, typical public safety personnel (the lone policeman, firemen or EMT) often first to arrive on scene, have fewer response options. As in the scenario above, the person in the water will be found beyond the reach stage. Unlike the advanced teams, the “First-Responder” is neither equipped nor trained to go in the water after the victim. Therefore, it is imperative to train and equip them with a tool specifically suited to their needs. Throwing a non-buoyant device in this instance could be a recipe for disaster. It’s a solution that is little better than standing by and waiting for a response from resources that cannot arrive in time as the past 22 years of drowning statistics have shown.

BUOYANCY & REACH

Research suggests that many rescuers, who employ traditional buoyant devices, find these devices difficult to stow in small rescue vehicles/vessels and the reach of these tools is limited when deployed due to size/bulk. Taking their cue from advance rescue teams, many agencies have shifted to non-buoyant devices, such as the line bag, to extend their reach.

RISK INHERENT IN NON-BUOYANT DEVICES

Among water rescue professionals, it is common knowledge that drowning victims often latch on to any source of buoyancy, including the rescuer. When a panicked drowning victim grabs the rescuer, the rescuer has been taught to submerge, forcing the victim to release their grip.



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Whether it's a lifeguard or a non-buoyant device that takes the drowning victim under, the outcome is likely to be that they release their grip. Devices that provide less than 50 Newtons / 11 pounds, do not provide sufficient buoyancy to keep a drowning victim from submerging during the response stage, thus the "First-Responder" may perceive that they have made the situation worse and feel compelled to attempt a water-entry-rescue.

Simply put, sending a non-buoyant device to an "Actively Drowning Person" is not advisable!

BASED ON AN EXISTING STANDARD

The **PERSONAL RETRIEVER™** is based on the standards currently accepted worldwide for the Type 50 Buoyancy Aid.

The logic behind the design of the Type 50 EN 393 Buoyancy Aid:

- Sufficient buoyancy to keep a conscious person afloat
- Intended for use in areas where help is readily available

The **PERSONAL RETRIEVER™** provides more than the 50N (11 pounds) buoyancy required for the Type-50 devices. Since our design has a recovery line, help is readily available at the other end of the recovery line by the person deploying the device.

SPECIFICATIONS

Typical devices currently in use fall short in one or more of these areas.

PROBLEM

OTHERS

Not enough reach
Too little buoyancy
Slow deployment
Difficult to retrieve and re-deploy
Hard surface likely to injure
Too complicated for average user
Cumbersome, doesn't travel easily
Poor wind penetration

SOLUTION

PERSONAL RETRIEVER™

Reach: 100 feet
Buoyancy: 12 pounds
Deployment: 10 seconds or less
Redeployment time: 45 seconds or less
Soft Foam Cover & Propylene Base
Training Time: One hour or less
Diameter: 17 inches & Weight 1.5 pounds
Full deployment into 15-knot winds

As every lifeguard knows, buoyancy is critical for stabilizing a drowning victim in order to execute a safe recovery.

BASIC FUNCTIONS: A lifeguard **enters the water** to:

Provide buoyancy

Create stability

Effect recovery

LIFE-SAFER, INC.'s GOAL: Allow the "First-Responder" to emulate the basic functions of a lifeguard, **without having to enter the water** to:

Provide buoyancy

Create stability

Effect recovery

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