

## Review: *PERSONAL RETRIEVER™*

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Over the years it has been proven that providing a floating rescue aid to a potentially drowning patient can increase the chance of survival by decreasing the chance of submersion. Up to now, the only method of providing enough floatation was equipment that requires time to set up or heavy awkward floatation rings that can not be thrown far enough to provide assistance. Throw bags are a great tool for rapid deployment but do not provide the necessary buoyancy and life rings are too heavy to throw a great distance. It seemed the only way to aid a near drowning patient was to do an approach in the water, by boat or swimming, and pass an aid to the patient. By making an approach to a patient, the risk to the rescuer has increased. The *PERSONAL RETRIEVER™* fills a void in rescue tools that has been needed for many years.



The *PERSONAL RETRIEVER™* is very easy to set up and deploy. With little practice, any rescuer may become proficient enough to land this floatable rescue aid within a struggling patient arms reach every time. Once the patient has a firm hold, it is easy to anchor yourself and draw the patient to shore or to water side aid. The floatation of the *PERSONAL RETRIEVER™* is sufficient enough to maintain a patients head above the water reducing the chance of submersion and water ingestion. By maintaining a shore rescue, the risk to the rescuer is drastically reduced. For multi-patient rescues the *PERSONAL RETRIEVER™* may

be redeployed quickly, without having to be re-packed or rewound, for second and third patient retrievals. With its ease of use, it has practical application for shore based rescue, Ice rescue, boat based rescue and any water related emergency.

Along with shore based water rescue the *PERSONAL RETRIEVER™* has many other water related uses. Because of its distance of use and light line it holds a place in river rescue for retrieval of a free floating patient. It may also be utilized in drawing a heavier rope back across a river for a rescue high line. The *PERSONAL RETRIEVER™* is also well suited to providing floatation to a patient who has fallen through ice leaving a high margin of safety for the rescuer.

Due to the *PERSONAL RETRIEVER™* size it is ideal for most rescue agencies and may be stored easily. The compartment of a Fire truck, the trunk of a Police cruiser, handy storage areas on a vessel, storage compartments on a personal watercraft or even on a post at the end of a dock. In the eyes of WRT we truly believe that the *PERSONAL RETRIEVER™* has a place in water related rescue and each of our courses have been altered to teach the proper use of this product.



Feel free to visit WRT at: <http://www.watercraftrescue.ca>

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