

Fibreight Recovery Cradle - Operating Instructions (MM0021 issue A)

The Fibreight Cradle is a recovery system that can be operated by a single person. It can also be used as a boarding ladder, scramble net and stretcher.

The cradle is designed for use by rescue craft, rigid inflatables and ships' lifeboats. It can also be used for recovering casualties from falls into trenches, ditches or similar, after accidents.

Preparation

Remove the Fibreight Cradle from the carrying bag. Make sure that your rescue craft has sufficient well placed attachment points to secure the cradle across its full width. These can include a combination of lifting points, cleats, handles, deck eyes, stanchions and toe rail.

Important: fit extra attachment points if sufficient are not available.

Securely lace one end of the Fibreight Cradle with a line to the selected attachment points or use suitable quick release fasteners, such as karabiners and shackles.

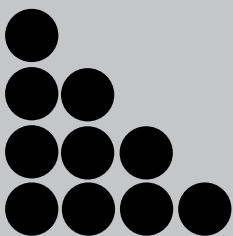
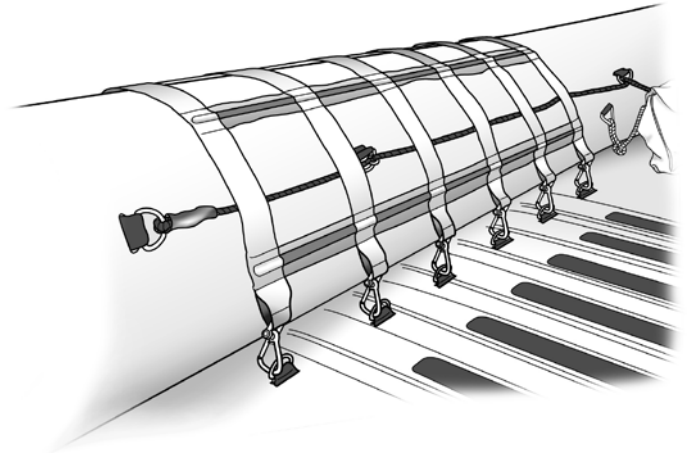
Fold the Fibreight Cradle at the mid point and roll from there so that the two ends remain available.

Deployment

Retain the free end of the Fibreight Cradle in the hand and release the centre section into the water. Hold the free end outwards to form a trough in the water. Guide the casualty fully into the Fibreight Cradle, making sure that the torso is completely supported.

Note: On rescue craft with a greater freeboard, the cradle may be manoeuvred satisfactorily by attaching a line to the sewn eye at each side of the outboard end of the Fibreight Cradle to form a bridle; alternatively a boat hook or derrick may be used.

Important: on approaching the casualty, do not deploy the Fibreight cradle until the rescue craft has stopped.

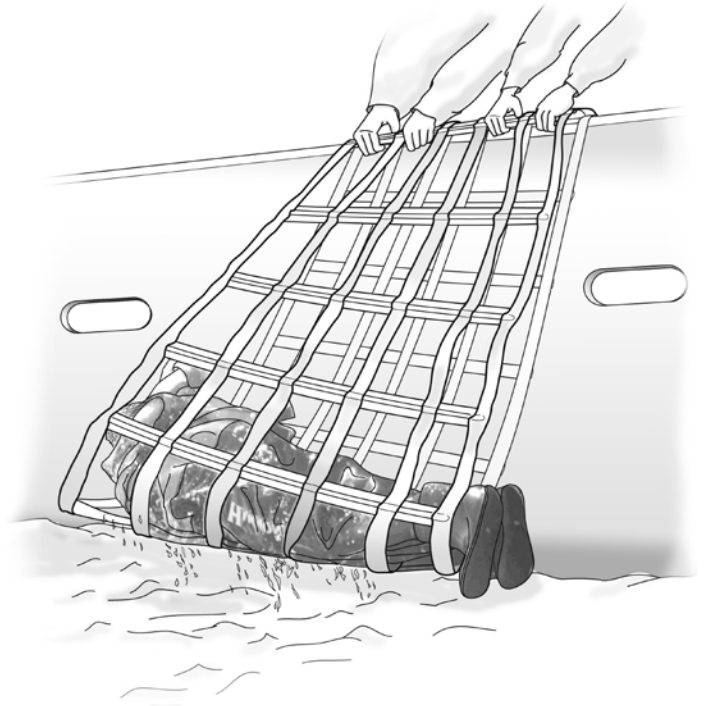


Recovery

Haul in the Fibrelight Cradle rung by rung, hand over hand (or haul in on the line, if attached) and the casualty will be parbuckled on board, in the recommended horizontal position. The recovery is aided by the mechanical advantage provided by the cradle which can enable a single crew member to complete the operation.

If the casualty has sufficient strength to climb, the length of the Fibrelight Cradle should be lowered into the water to form a boarding ladder or scrambling net.

In this form, the Fibrelight Cradle will allow a crew member to climb down to water level to secure an unconscious casualty.



Warning: When hauling the casualty on board a very light displacement rescue craft, ensure that craft stability is maintained.

Important: To avoid the risk of tripping the Fibrelight Cradle must be folded double when used as a stretcher.

After Use

The Fibrelight Cradle should be hosed off with fresh water ready for re-use.

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