



HOSE COMPANY 2 - WESTBURY FIRE DEPT.

TRAINING EXERCISE

Converting the SCBA into a Harness

1. THROUGH THE LEG METHOD

- 1.1 Locate the waist strap of the SCBA.
- 1.2 Fully loosen both halves of the waist belt.
- 1.3 Unbuckle the waist belt.
- 1.4 Lift up one of the distressed members legs and place it on your shoulder.
- 1.5 Take one half of the waist belt and put it behind the distressed member's leg and bring it up between their legs.
- 1.6 Take the other half of the waist belt and bring it in front of the distressed member's leg and reconnect the waist strap. (Photo 1)



Photo 1

- 1.7 Take the rappel hook from the personal harness of the distressed member and pull sharply to release the hook from the belt.
- 1.8 Loosen the SCBA shoulder straps of the distressed member.
- 1.9 Open the gate of the hook of the members personal harness and place the open hook through both of the distressed members SCBA shoulder straps starting with the left strap first and then the right strap. The rescuer is moving the hook from their right to the left. The hook is attached in this manner so as to prevent twisting of the handle of the member's personal harness. (Photo 2)



Photo 2

- 1.10 Once both of the distressed member's SCBA shoulder straps are positioned inside the hook of their personal harness hook, release the gate of the hook.
- 1.11 Prior to tightening the distressed member's SCBA straps, webbing should be placed through the top end of the shoulder straps to make a girth hitch.
 - 1.11.1 Place one end of the webbing through both shoulder straps. (Photo 3)



Photo 3

- 1.11.2 Take the other end of the webbing and place it through the center of the webbing that was put through the shoulder straps. (Photo 4)



Photo 4

- 1.11.3 Tighten up on the webbing by pulling on the end placed through the center creating a girth hitch on the members SCBA shoulder straps. (Photo 5)

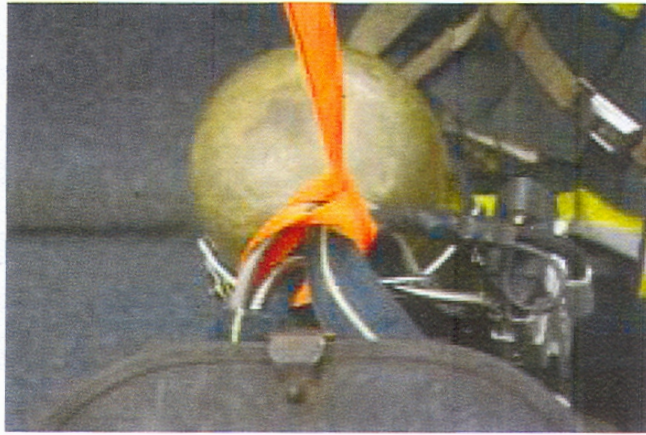


Photo 5

- 1.12 If time permits or additional securing is required, half hitches may be tied into both the shoulder and the waist straps of the distressed member's SCBA. When tying the half hitches, start with the waist straps first. Pull one side of the waist straps tight to allow enough excess in the strap to tie the half hitch. After the half hitch is completed, tighten the other waist strap. The excess can be wrapped underneath itself to keep it from slipping. Repeat the procedure for the shoulder straps by doing one side then the other. Depending on the size of the member, the shoulder straps can be tied across their chest.

The benefits the knots provide will help to keep the distressed member's SCBA as tight as possible to the member's back. This will help prevent the mask from getting hung up on furniture, or when turning corners. More importantly, when carrying a member up a flight of stairs, these knots prevent the mask harness from riding up and possibly dislodging the member's facepiece.

- 1.13 Packaging the member in this manner will allow for both a vertical or horizontal removal.

2. USE OF THE PERSONAL HARNESS LEG STRAPS

- 2.1 Prior to converting the member's SCBA into a harness, move the firefighter to a sitting position providing we do not suspect any type of spinal injury. Once in a sitting position, rotate the member, if possible, so that their back is facing toward the direction of removal. The benefits of moving the firefighter to a sitting position are:

- It reduces the member's size in half, which will be beneficial in tight locations.
- It will allow full control over the distressed member. This will help prevent members not assigned to the removal process from moving the distressed member prior to the completion of the packaging.
- It will be easier to locate the Universal Air Connection.
- Allows easier access to the SCBA low pressure hose, facepiece and both shoulder and waist straps.

- 2.2 Rescuer 1 shall be positioned behind the distressed member. This firefighter places their knee under the rubber bumper of the distressed member's SCBA cylinder, allowing slack in the distressed members SCBA shoulder straps. (Photo 6)
- 2.3 Rescuer # 2 shall be positioned in front facing the member.



Photo 6

- 2.4 Rescuer 2 pulls on the yellow leg straps of the distressed member's personal harness creating a loop. This will allow rescuer 2 room when ready to feed the SCBA waist buckle straps through the loops of the distressed member's personal harness leg straps and connect. (Photo 7)



Photo 7

- 2.5 Rescuer 1 works their hands down the SCBA cylinder to the waist straps and depresses the alligator clips that tighten the waist straps. (Photo 8)

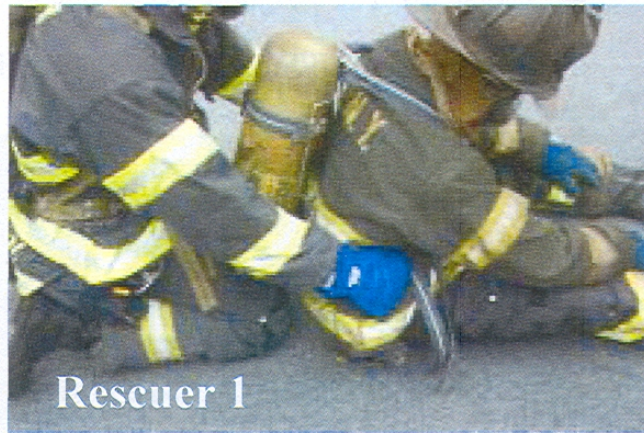


Photo 8

- 2.6 Rescuer 2 grabs the connected SCBA waist buckle and fully extends the waist straps. (Photo 9)



Photo 9

- 2.7 Rescuer 2 disconnects the waist buckle and feeds the ends of the SCBA waist straps through the loops created in the distressed member's leg straps of their personal harness and reconnects the waist straps. Do not tighten the waist straps at this time. (Photo 10)



Photo 10

- 2.8 Rescuer 1 maintains the distressed member's SCBA cylinder as high as possible creating slack in all of the straps.
- 2.9 Rescuer 2 grabs the rappel hook from the personal harness of the distressed member and pulls sharply to release the hook from the belt and opens the gate of the hook.
- 2.10 Rescuer 1 loosens the SCBA shoulder straps of the distressed member and brings them both forward to allow Rescuer 2 to attach the distressed member's personal harness hook.
- 2.11 Rescuer 2 places the open hook from the distressed member's personal harness through both of the member's SCBA shoulder straps starting with the left strap first and then the right strap. The rescuer is moving the hook from their right to the left. The hook is attached in this manner so as to prevent twisting of the handle of the distressed member's personal harness. (Photo 11)



Photo 11

- 2.12 Once both of the distressed member's SCBA shoulder straps are positioned inside the hook of the personal harness hook, Rescuer 2 releases the gate of the hook. (Photo 12)



Photo 12

2.13 Prior to tightening all of the distressed member's SCBA straps, webbing should be placed through the top end of the shoulder straps to make a girth hitch.

Note: Girth hitch procedures are outlined in sections 1.11.1, 1.11.2, 1.11.3 and 1.12.

2.14 Packaging the member in this manner (Photo 13) will allow for both a vertical or horizontal removal.



(Photo 13)