

RNLI STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



Towing

Validation

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Pages	3

Objective

To ensure that lifeboat crews use the correct procedures for towing alongside and astern of an 85 Class lifeboat.

Reference Documentation

CoBT 1
Crew Members Handbook
Class Manual

Checklist

SOP communicated and understood by all?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Appropriate PPE identified /specified?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

Hazards

Manual handling	Weather and sea conditions
Lines under load	Entrapment

Health and Safety

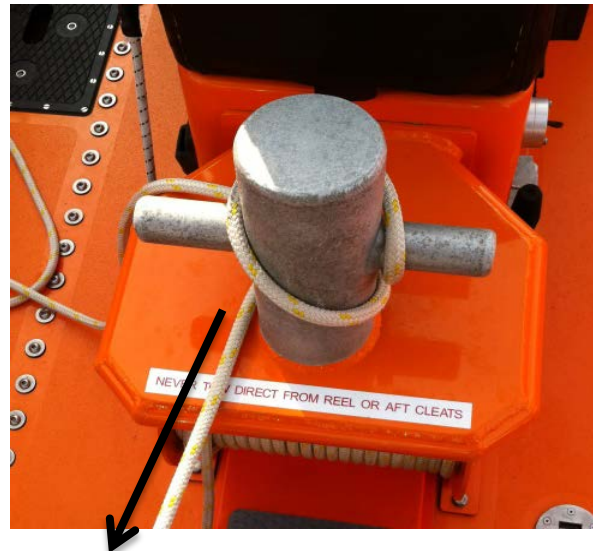
 Caution	 Protective clothing must be worn	 Protective footwear must be worn	 Lifejackets to be worn		
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Towing must NEVER be attempted from the general-purpose rope reel itself, or from the aft mooring cleats.

Preparing to Tow from the Stern

- Lower the tow bar by unfastening the two bungee cords
- Pass the towline through the A-frame, above the guide bar bringing the end around the outside of the A-frame and onto the afterdeck of the Lifeboat
- Pull enough of line from the reel, through the A- frame and coil it in hand ready to pass to casualty



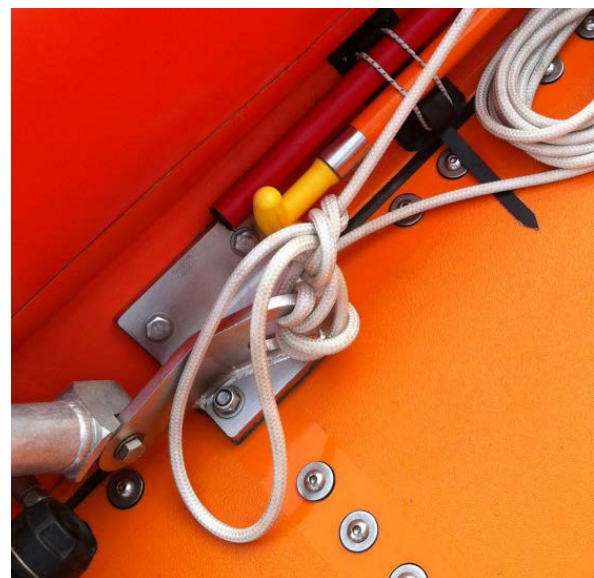
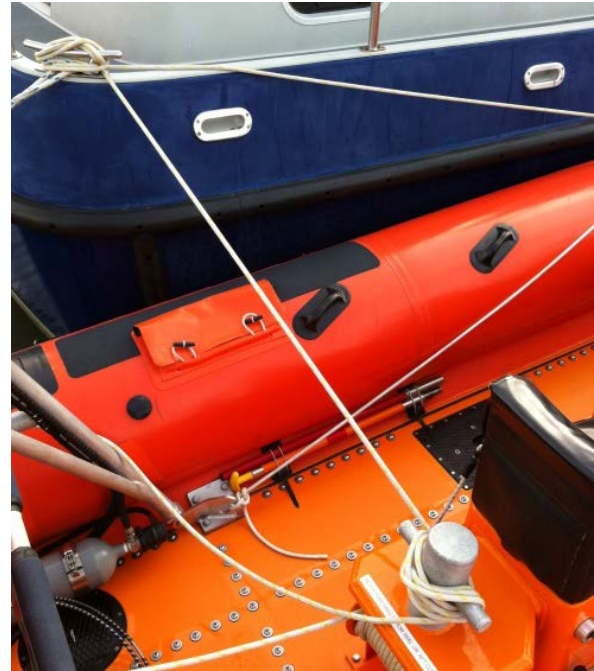
To Casualty

Towing from the Stern

- After passing the end of line to the casualty the Lifeboat should stand off the casualty vessel. The crew **MUST** manage the line keeping it clear of the propeller's
- The Helm should hold the vessel stationary into the conditions whilst the line is secured
- Once the line is secured to the casualty, the lifeboat will manoeuvre away slowly. The crewmember is to pay out the towline in a controlled manner, whilst maintaining tension on the line using the bollard
- Pay out sufficient line commensurate to conditions and casualty size / weight
- **Secure the towline to the bollard ensuring no tension is on the towline**



- Take up the tow gradually until the line is under tension and proceed at a safe speed
- Once underway, monitor the tow checking the line for chafe and adjust as necessary
- In an emergency, the tow should be dropped by releasing the line from the bollard, allowing all the line to pay out from the drum



Towing from Alongside

- Manoeuvre the lifeboat so that the casualty is alongside and its stern is in line with the lifeboats towing bollard
- Secure the lines in the following order:
 - Bow line - from casualty bow to bow cleat
 - Bow spring - from lifeboat free bow cleat, allowing slack line between cleats so adjustment can be made if necessary
 - Turn helm away from casualty and engage engines. This will tension the lines and bring the sterns closer together
 - Stern line – from casualty stern to the bollard
 - Stern spring - from lifeboat aft lifting eye to forward part of casualty

When tying to the lifting eyes, use a round turn with two half hitches on the bight.