

# RNLI STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



## ILB Helicopter Operations

### Validation

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<b>ID Number</b>	ILB-SOP-4.14-01
<b>Last updated</b>	October 2015
<b>Review date</b>	Annually
<b>Pages</b>	2

### Objective

To ensure the correct procedures are carried out during ILB helicopter operations

### Reference Documentation

Crew Members handbook
CoBT 1
TP-LB-116 Agreement Helicopter SAR Operations
Learning Zone

### 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

Lines under load	Weather and sea conditions
Noise	Overhead working
Slips, trips and falls	
Static Electricity	

### Health and Safety

 Caution	 Caution slippery surface	 Lifejackets to be worn	 Protective footwear must be worn	 Safety gloves must be worn	 Protective clothing must be worn
 Danger Static electricity		 Hard hat area			

### Preparation

- Make earliest possible communications with helicopter prior to winching operation
- Decide on location of exercise and establish primary call signs and working channel
- Helm and pilot to decide safest method of transfer and course and speed
- Ensure area is safe to navigate in (see Safe Navigation SOP)
- Brief crew and casualty thoroughly

### Prior to winching

- Ensure correct PPE and Hi-line gloves (if required)
- Switch radar to standby (if applicable)
- Clear and secure deck
- Use survivors lifejacket if being winched

Consider sea anchor if stationary winching

### During winching operation

- If formatting helm is to make approach from starboard side of helicopter
- Helm is to stand off until winchman is in position and directed to approach
- Lifeboat crew should be assisting with navigation, lookout and maintain a listening watch of VHF
- If using a hi-line on B-class boats consider stowing it in the foot well

Note: if winching at night point the lifeboats search lights forward



**During the winching operation the helm must ensure the safety of the crew and boat. Any concerns should be raised with the helicopter prior to winch operations**

**DO NOT touch the static discharge line prior to earthing**

**DO NOT use pyrotechnics at night**

**DO NOT secure the hi-line to any part of the lifeboat**

**BE AWARE high levels of downdraft may cause debris and unsecured objects to be propelled**

**DO NOT approach casualty if a helicopter is on scene. First establish communication and then agree plan with the pilot before entering the operation area**

**In an emergency or to stop the winching at any point “BREAK OFF, BREAK OFF, BREAK OFF” must be spoken over the VHF**