

# RNLI STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



## Preparation for Use and Pre-Inspection

Validation	Objective
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<b>Prepared by</b>	R. Goodlad – Operations Manager (Flood Response)	To ensure that the rescue throwbag is used safely and in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions.
<b>Validated by</b>	P. Dawes – Lifesaving Services Manager	
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<b>Review date</b>	Annually	
<b>Pages</b>	2	

Reference Documentation	Checklist
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Flood Water Rescue Manual TP Page 98	SOP communicated and understood by all?	✓
CoBT 1 Unit 16.1g, 16.1iii	Appropriate PPE identified /specified?	
	Lessons Learned : LOM Circular 06/12 4.2	

### Hazards

Bag separation	

### Health and Safety

 <b>Caution</b>					
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It is imperative that each team member takes ownership of a rescue bag at the start of operations, and carries out the following checks and repack to ensure that the bag is attached and stowed correctly to ensure effective deployment.

The rescue throwbag is an integral part of team member PPE. When it is needed, it will be required very quickly, and often for an important rescue. It is therefore vital that the throwbag is stowed correctly, and also attached to the bag correctly.

- Unpack the bag to inspect the line fully. This is best done as a 'practice throw' to re-familiarise the user with the technique
- Check that the line is threaded through BOTH holes at the base of the bag, and tied with a rethreaded figure of 8 knot. This should have a 15cm tail, which can be secured with a cable tie, though this will not always be possible in the field, particularly if the line is used separately
- The knot should be tied to create a small loop, which is large enough to clip into, but not large enough that a hand can be passed through. Use the material as a guide, and aim to tie it tight enough to be tight against the fabric, without crumpling it
- Repack the bag, either by feeding over the shoulder, or by making small lap coils in one hand, and pushing these into the bag
- Whilst doing this, a check should be made for any abrasions, cuts or lumps in the line. If there is wear, it should be cut and retired immediately
- Leave the tail accessible, but well secured so it cannot come undone
- Once a team member has ownership of a bag, they should ensure that they are happy with its integrity. If bags are mixed up, then the check should take place again. Bag deployment is always an opportunity to practice and maintain throwing technique

