

Water Rescue Ropes

*Primary use is Rescue/Assist Swimmers,
And Recovery of Equipment & Line Crossings
A basic tool in all swiftwater rescue.*

Haul Ropes - Static - -low stretch for haul systems, stabilization lines, clinches, *not your first rope*

Throw Ropes - Dynamic - -lots of stretch, soft coils, -- *best first rope and for most typical rescues*

Characteristics of Rescue Throw Ropes

#1 -- It must be with you..... *small and compact enough to carry in your boat!*

#2 -- You must be able to throw it effectively

High Visibility Color

Floats, + strength & weight that are relatively unaffected by water, dries fast

Diameter large enough for easy grip even with cold hands -- 3/8" standard, 1/4" special use only

Length appropriate for your throwing ability and size of river . 75' standard, 50' min.

Construction and Material

----*Essentially all rescue ropes are synthetic materials, kernmantle with braided sheath*

----*Twisted and Braided ropes generally **not used**, strength and durability issues...*

----*Cotton and Manila materials generally **not used** in river rescue, low strength, durability*

----*Some high strength materials are **more difficult** to throw, recoil, restuff and tie.*

Traditional Bag with Handle is easiest to throw, stuff, and carry. Probably best all around.

Waist bag, small bag, and coiled lines have advantages in certain uses

Recommended Ropes

3/8 Max Grip/Grabline **3600#** *Easy throw, Easy restuff, Best for Victim, more stretch, more expensive OK with typical Z drag*

3/8 Polypro , 1/4 Max Grip, 1/4 Spectra --all abt **1900#** -- *Easy throw, easy restuff, inexpensive. Fails on typical Z drag*

3/8 Spectra/Dyneema/UltraLine **4500+ #** *Hardest to throw and restuff, low stretch, most expensive. Best for haul systems*

1" x 1/8" Tubular Webbing 4000# *Best for anchors, attaching to pinned boat or sharp edges, low stretch, inexpensive*

Vendors:

Pack Rat, 209 West Sunbridge, Fayetteville

Ouachita Outdoors Outfitters, Hot Springs

SteepCreekRescue.com - Tim Jones & Clay Calhoon - ACC SWR instructors

Turner Bend Store, Highway 23 at Mulberry River

Ozark Rescue Suppliers, Rogers. (near Praire Creek Park)

rescuesourcestore.com nrsweb.com noc.com

General Rules

Don't Tie Yourself to Rope, Don't put wrist into loop, Beware of entangles.

Carry a Knife --- to cut away and release from rope

Avoid stepping on / standing over rope

Receiving the Rope

Face downstream on back

Feet up, toes out of water, arch back,

Grab the rope rather than the bag

Hold rope on chest, across opposite shoulder , set ferry angle

Throwing the Rope

Choose location to protect your self and OK for swimmer

Only One throw at a time

Consider what happens when swimmer catches rope

1 *Establish eye & voice contact with swimmer before throw*

2 *Hit victim with rope*

3 *Hold on to rope, prepare for serious force*

4 *Pendulum or reel victim in asap*

Practice, Practice, Practice! *4' target at 40 feet*

Second Throw - restuff, spaghetti pile, coil in hand

Types of Throw - under, over, side

Belaying the swimmer

Dynamic-- move to lessen load, guide landing

Static- hip, sitting, shoulder, friction wrap a tree

Buddy Belay

Vector pull to assist landing

Protect yourself. Look out for each other. Don't Create More Victims!