

## **Welcome to CMC's RescuE-News!**

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### **CMC Rescue School Special Offer**

CMC Rescue is well recognized in the industry for our high quality rescue products. Did you know that CMC also operates one of the most respected training programs – the CMC Rescue School? Our reputation for knowing how to use technical rescue equipment led to the development of the first CMC Rope Rescue Technician courses in 1983.

Rescue is a skill and knowledge based discipline. Our “hands-on” intensive curriculum provides each student the ability to develop skills through a learn-by-doing approach. Classroom sessions develop theoretical background to support the learned skills. Each class concludes with real-to-life scenarios that develop decision-making capability to put the learned skills to practical use.

CMC Rescue Instructors are carefully selected rescue trainers with extensive backgrounds in the emergency services. Combined with a well-developed curriculum, CMC Rescue School's intensive hands-on instruction provides the highest level of training value for your investment of time and money.

**Special Offer:** Upcoming Rope Rescue Technician I/II classes are being held at the following dates and locations: July 9-13th in Boise, Idaho; August 6-10th in Scotia, California; and August 27-31st in Astoria, Oregon. First time CMC Rescue School enrollees to any one of these three classes, mention code RN02 and receive \$50 off your registration fees. Class size is limited, so call (800) 235-5741 or (805) 562-9120 now to register.

### **Service Life of a Rescue Harness**

CMC Rescue is known for our top-quality harnesses and many of our customers ask us when they should retire their harnesses. Here's our recommendation:

The service life of a rescue harness is closely related to that of a rescue rope – both are used in the same environments, both are made from nylon or polyester, and both receive similar levels of inspection and care. Since harnesses are worn on the body, they are generally better protected than the ropes. On the other hand, harnesses rely on the stitching to hold them together, and due to its small diameter, the thread can be more susceptible to abrasion, aging, and chemical damage than web or rope.

The fall protection industry recommends 2 to 3 years as a service life for a harness or belt in use. They recommend 7 years as the shelf life. The military was using 7 years as a service life for nylon products. The Climbing Sports Group of the Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America says that a climbing harness should last about two years under normal weekend use. At this time, the rescue industry does not have a recommended service life for harnesses.

Through the ASTM consensus standards process, the rescue industry set 10 years as the maximum service life for a life safety rope (see ASTM Standard F1740-96 *Guide for Inspection of Nylon, Polyester, or Nylon/Polyester Blend, or both Kernmantle Rope*). The guide stresses that the most significant contributing factor to the service life of a rope is the history of use. A rope that is shock loaded or otherwise damaged should be retired immediately. Hard use would

call for a shorter service life than would be acceptable for a rope that sees very little use, and any obvious damage during use would indicate immediate retirement.

If we apply the same analysis to the rescue harness, then the actual use and the conclusions drawn from inspection would be the significant criteria for retirement. We do know that with any use, a rope will age, and thus a harness is likely to do the same, so a 10-year maximum service life may well be the reasonable limit for harnesses as well, assuming inspection has not provided any earlier reason for retirement.

As with the ropes, if the harness has been subjected to shock loads, fall loads, or abuse other than normal use, the harness should be removed from service. In conclusion, if there is any doubt about the serviceability of the harness for any of the above reasons, it should be removed from service.

**We welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions for *CMC RescuE-News!***

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*CMC RescuE-News* for Friday, June 15, 2001