



**ROYAL CANADIAN MARINE
SEARCH & RESCUE**
Saving Lives on the Water

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Safety and Training Board – Safety Bulletin
PFD Competency Testing

June 05, 2018

Station Leaders,

An incident has been brought to our attention which occurred during an in-water PFD Competency Training event as stipulated by OPS – 117 Annual Fitness Testing policy. The station was conducting the in-water training procedure with a safety spotter on the dock and a safety spotter in the water next to the drum apparatus. The trainee was conducting a second cycle after a successful initial attempt. During this effort the individual became entangled/“hung-up” in the Beckett line loop. The safety spotter in the water quickly cut the Beckett line and the trainee was able to safely surface seconds later, no one was injured.

This safety bulletin is a reminder to all stations to clearly plan for this training activity, ensure the trainee has a clear understanding on the best technique to affect the activity, that safety spotters are in place to provide support as required and that the trainees is not directed to pass through the Beckett line.

The Safety and Training Board (STB) is reviewing the need for further instructional resources to ensure this does not happen again but the reality of becoming entangled or snagged by Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on operational vessels is a constant for all activities and should be considered and carefully monitored at all times.

An investigation on this incident is ongoing, training direction with technique, training equipment design and support tools may be forthcoming depending on the outcome of the investigation. Please note that PFD Competency Training should continue with increased emphasis on the pre-training briefing, including the handling of Beckett Lines and the roles of the safety spotters. It is the assessment of the STB, that in its current form the PFD Competency Test is a robust and safe activity with appropriate safety measures in place.

Sincerely,
Ralph Mohrmann
STB Chairperson