

		OPERATION PROCEDURES
16	Local procedure	Recovering Casualty to Lifeboat

1. Water to boat

- Once the casualty is spotted in the water a crew member must mark their position with an outstretched arm at all times.
- The helm will indicate when a crewman should move ahead to grab the casualty.
- The crew member should try and make verbal contact with the casualty prior to reaching out to him.
- If sea conditions allow and there is no suspected spinal injury or the casualty has not been immersed for more than 1 hour the preferred method of removing the casualty from the sea is by one or two crew lifting the casualty over the sponson on the starboard side of the lifeboat. The casualty should be facing away from the lifeboat and the crew should lift them from under the arms.
- If the casualty has suspected spinal injuries or has been immersed in the water for more than 1 hour and the sea conditions allow, the Jason's Cradle should be used to retrieve the casualty. This is deployed by one crew member while the other holds on to the casualty near the bow of the lifeboat. Once the Jason's Cradle is open the crew should guide the casualty head first into the cradle. Once inside the two crew then roll the casualty into the lifeboat and onto the crew seats. Communication with the casualty should be maintained throughout this process.
- Depending upon their injuries the casualty can be placed in various positions around the lifeboat in order to receive the required first aid.
- A casualty should never be left unattended on the lifeboat unless in the recovery position whilst other casualties are being recovered.
- A lifejacket should be given to a casualty as soon as possible after entering the lifeboat. This is not required if there is a possibility that cardiac massage is required.

2. Boat to boat

- If a casualty is being recovered from a boat all assistance should be given when the transfer takes place.
- If the casualty is able to walk then one crew member should be on the casualty's vessel and one on the lifeboat at the point of transfer. During the transfer one crewman should have a secure hold of the casualty at all times.
- Once the transfer is made the casualty should be seated in one of the crew seats or placed in a safe position for the journey to shore.
- If the casualty is unable to walk the transfer should be made using a spinal board or stretcher. The casualty should be secured onto the stretcher using the correct straps and should always be wearing an inflated lifejacket.
- The helm will decide the point where the transfer will be made and will indicate the exact moment when the stretcher should be passed from the casualty's boat to the lifeboat.
- The stretcher should be positioned in line with the bow and stern and passed from the casualty's boat to the lifeboat in one movement. The stretcher should at no time be resting on both boats simultaneously.
- Once the transfer has been completed the stretcher should be positioned on the crew seats and secured.

3. Shore to boat

- Once it has been decided that a casualty is going to be transferred from the shore to the lifeboat the helmsman will indicate how near to the shore and in what position he can place the lifeboat.
- If the casualty is walking:
 - If the sea conditions allow the bow of the lifeboat to be placed on the shore one or more crew members will assist the casualty into the lifeboat over the bow and the remaining crew will help from inside the lifeboat.
 - If conditions do not allow for the boat to be positioned on the beach the crew will assist the casualty through the water either by wading (in shallow water) or being towed with a crewman on a line (in deeper water). Note: the latter is only to be undertaken for a casualty in suitable physical state and where no realistic alternative – e.g. helo extraction, extraction overland – is available.
- In all these cases an inflated lifejacket must be given to the casualty before entering the water.
- If the casualty is not walking:
 - Depending upon the injuries the casualty can be assisted using either a two man lift or placed on a stretcher and carried to the lifeboat.
 - If the casualty is carried using a two man lift they should be placed in a sitting position onto the sponson. They should be helped to turn into the lifeboat then assisted to the crew seats or laid down on the deck of the lifeboat in a safe position.
 - In deeper water the casualty will be transferred using the same method as a walking casualty, although this must be a last resort.
 - If the bow can be placed on the beach and the stretcher is used it should be lifted onto the sponson and another crew member takes hold of the stretcher until he is joined by a colleague. This is then manoeuvred to the crew seats.