

A Proven Success With Less Time & Manpower.

MARSARS® Ice Rescue Sled Kits

REACHING RESCUE FROM A SAFER DISTANCE BY SLED



In 2004 the U.S. Coast Guard modernized their ice rescue program. With a primary goal of rescuer's safety, the MARSARS® Ice Rescue Safety Shuttle Sled (IRSS) was selected as the Coast Guard's ice rescue device of choice. This sled is now distributed World-wide. We believe the ease of extracting the patient and rescuer safety has been the primary reason for its popularity. The MARSARS® Ice Rescue Sled kit includes: IRSS Sled, buoyant Cold Water Rescue Sling and your choice of 300', 600' or 900' Ice Rescue Reel.

Genesis of Safer Distance Ice Rescue

Prior to late 80's, if grabbed and climbed on, all lifeguards were trained to escape by submerging their body deeper. Doing so, the panicked victim, desperate for support would let them go. Since then, all lifeguards stop at a safe distance and extend a rescue flotation device (RFD). The use of RFDs has become the nucleus of swimmer's safety in open water rescue. However, if an ice rescue technician is grabbed and climbed on, the ice rescue suit's buoyancy prevents escape, leaving our techs no recourse but to make aggressive moves to escape.

A seed change for ice rescuer's safety

In this high-risk low incident environment, the MARSARS Ice Rescue Sled (IRSS Sled) is the first ice rescue device designed to gently extract the victim from a safer distance. As first responders, we must be mindful of the rescue dictum: Self-Rescue, Reach, Throw, Row, Go. The self-rescue, reaching phase of this principal has been incorporated into the design of this unique mitigating device for high-risk situations.

Watch MARSARS®
Ice Rescue Sled in use in
the movie *Breakthrough*
Breakthroughmovie.com

TESTIMONIALS



“I was assigned to teach an ice rescue class at a department that just bought a MARSARS® ice rescue sled. After studying the instructions, watching the DVD, and performing well over 100 rescues teaching that class, I WAS SOLD!”

Captain Gary Breuer
Flemington-Raritan Rescue Squad
Flemington, NJ



“The Shutesbury Fire Department has been involved with surface ice rescue for many years. We have evaluated many products over the years, searching for a product that would make the process easier and safer for all involved. The MARSARS® Ice Rescue Safety Shuttle is the most innovative piece of equipment for ice rescue that we have seen. We ordered the Safety Shuttle with a 300' Ice Rescue Reel and Sling. We were impressed by the quality of the construction and the many integrated features. After some classroom training including instructional videos, we put it through some real world testing. Everyone was impressed with the ease of use. We tested the Shuttle at night in realistic conditions using both “conscious” and “un-conscious” victims. Even with multiple evolutions, ice buildup and other equipment freeze ups, the Shuttle continued to perform great. We even had firefighters new to ice rescue performing rescues with ease. Also notable was the reduced stress and strain on the patient. All-in-all, the best ice rescue product we have ever used!”

Walter R. Tibbetts
Fire Chief/ Emergency Management Director
Town of Shutesbury, MA



“ I would like to offer my full endorsement to MARSARS® Company; I have been using this equipment both in my current position as Deputy Chief of Operations for the Corner Brook Fire Department, as well as with my former position as the Operation Manager of the Marine Institute Safety and Emergency Response Training Centre. Over the past 10 years, I have used several different types of Ice and Water rescue equipment, both in training and in actual rescue operations. I have been directly involved in the Fire Rescue Service for 31 years, 21 of which I worked with the Marine Institute in their fire rescue training division. I feel the equipment offered by MARSARS® is by far the most user friendly and easy to operate equipment there is on the market today. The simple operation allows rescuers to gain quick access to would be victims in minimal time while being 100% plus safe. I feel that the MARSARS® system is by far the best Ice and Water rescue equipment we have used to date and would recommend this equipment to any type of Ice/Water rescue organization. ”

Craig Harnum
Deputy Chief, City of Corner Brook
Newfoundland, Canada

“ My rural fire rescue service chose MARSARS® after looking at all the alternatives. The average age of my responders is somewhere over 62. And there are only ten of us. So an ice rescue system had to leverage our brains to overcome the lack of brawn. The ice shuttle system allows us to use the combined strength of shore rescuers to do the hard work. We are very happy with how this is working for us. A very big advantage of working with MARSARS® is the depth of experience that they have. They have seen so many practice and actual rescues and have incorporated the lessons learned into their system. We feel confident that we will not have to reinvent a system and that solutions to the many challenges of ice rescue have already been designed into the MARSARS® system. I can recommend MARSARS® without reservation. ”

A. Tresemer,
Chief, Painted Rocks Fire Fire Rescue
Alta, Montana



Sled, Sling & Reel is one person portable



The Future of Modern Ice Rescue

A safer distance, a smaller team

The Two Responder Trial

In January 2019, Sodus Point Fire Department purchased a MARSARS[®] Ice Rescue Safety Sled (IRSS) kit. Upon receipt of this order, Fire Chief Mark Jones Jr. and Deputy Chief Chuck Sargent were eager to assess the sled's safer-distance ice rescue capability. The officers brought the equipment down to the partially ice-covered Sodus Bay in New York. Upon arrival, the deputy chief assumed the role of rescue technician, traversed outbound over the ice, and entered open water. Switching to the role of victim/patient, he placed both forearms through the sled's forearm sling. When signaled, and through the aid of the sled's unique 4:1 ratio pulley system, Chief Jones, by himself, weighing only 165 pounds, effortlessly hauled his 240-pound deputy aboard the sled, onto the ice shelf and back to shore.

This trial proved to the department that only two ice rescuers are initially needed to quickly deploy, extract, and recover a patient. Nationwide, with fire departments challenged by limited numbers of first responders, this simple to operate device has become a real game changer.

Subsequent Rescue with Minimal Responders

On March 14, 2019, Sodus Point FD received a call concerning a four-wheeler with two men that had fallen through the ice 1,000 yards (914 meters) from shore. The department's air boat was dispatched. After numerous ice fishermen were found to be fishing in the vicinity of the launch ramp, the air boat was aborted. Without delay, Chief Jones Jr. alongside an ice rescue technician and safety observer then responded. When the three responders arrived on scene they found that one of the victims had self-rescued. The weight of the other still immersed victim was estimated to be 350 pounds. With an empty IRSS Sled extended, and the patient's forearms through the forearm sling, the Chief extracted the large patient atop the sled, and brought the sled with patient onto the ice shelf by himself.

The Two-Victim Rescue Trial

The IRSS sled is wide enough to rescue two side-by-side patients at one time. This past winter, a test was conducted by the Caledon Fire & Emergency Service in Ontario to evaluate the IRSS Sled's two-victim rescue capability. To understand this technique, picture yourself standing on safe ice behind both side-by-side victims. You are now facing their backs. To their front, the rescuer has stopped one sled-length away. The size-up determined they both possess the ability to assist in their own rescue. As a reaching device, the empty IRSS Sled was extended to them. The victim to your right was instructed to insert his right forearm through the sled's forearm sling. The victim to the left inserted his left forearm. Now both patients were facing one another and told to hold on to each other with their free arm. Only one line tender responder was needed to load both adult males onto the sled and secure them atop firm ice.



Ice Rescue Safety Sled

Features:



SAFER DISTANCE ICE RESCUE

Many consider the use of this unique rescue from a safer distance device as a real game changer that minimizes the risk of injury to the patient as well as risk of injury or viral exposure to the rescuer

- Initially, a minimum of two first responders are needed for rescue
- All MARSARS® IRSS sled kits are one-person portable
- The sled is pre-rigged ready for instant use within seconds
- Only one out-bound ice rescue technician is required
- On-scene, rescuer remains a safe, one sled-length away from the victim
- Most conscious and alert victims can insert their forearms through the sled's forearm sling
- For size-up, victim is asked to lift and lower one arm. If conscious and alert...
- Empty sled is extended as a "REACHING DEVICE" for the victim "SELF-RESCUE ATTEMPT"
- Only one shore-based responder is needed to extricate the patient
- IRSS Sled can extricate two patients at one time



Rescuing the Unresponsive Victim

Glove of Dominate Hand is Blue



1. Atop ice, rescuer makes a cautious 45° angle approach to the victim. Dominate hand grabs victim's wrist



2. Holding wrist, rescuer's free hand grabs sling low to extend sling far.



3. With victim's wrist raised, slide sling beneath arm



4. A fully extended sling should now rest behind victim's head



5. Place and hold victim's wrist atop the sling. Rescuer's dominate hand reaches through sling to grab victim's other wrist



6. Victim's arm is lifted up, over and to the side of sling

Rescuing the Unresponsive Victim

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7. With sling lifted, dominate hand reaches beneath sling and grabs tail of the adjustable strap



8. The sizing strap is now wrapped and fastens around both legs of sling



10. Victim Forearm Sling's brake is released



9. Ice rescue technician pulls sled within close reach



11. Buoyant rescue sling is connected to the sled's ring attached pulley system



From ice to ambulance

Returning sled shields torsos of both patient and rescuer. Improved rescue safety with minimal patient handling and physical stress is the result of this well thought out ice-to-ambulance extraction device.



Cold Water Rescue Sling

- Rescuer remains atop ice, thus, reducing risk of injury
- Extendable by hand or reach pole
- Provides the semiconscious/unconscious victim with independent positive buoyancy
- During extrication, with arms folded atop sling, patient's head is protected
- Pulled through thick heavy snow, this non-constrictive device prevents injury to patient's chest



Ice Rescue Reel



- Reel can be carried hands-free to scene
- Pre rigged for immediate rescue use
- Quick, tangle-free line deployment
- Includes ice screw for anchoring atop ice or frozen ground
- Assured disconnection by freeze-free non locking carabiner
- Hook float prevents side loading
- Line can be rapidly re-spoiled for redeployment
- With or without line, reel remains buoyant



Rapid Underwater Recovery Kit

In 1995, the Warwick RI Fire Department conducted a recovery of three boys that had tragically drowned in 10-1/2 foot of water. Due to depth, the bodies were recovered in 10, 20, and 43 minutes. Two of the three recovered children were revived. Years later, the child that took the most time to recover graduated from college. During either summer or winter recovery, the Rapid Underwater Recovery Kit is another game changing tool for your toolbox that saves time, risk of injury and brings hope or closure to a grief stricken family.



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