



**Cearley  
Rescue Strap®**  
Made in USA

The **Cearley Rescue Strap®** was designed by Rick Cearley. While working as a Senior Pilot flying helicopters for the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Rick recognized the need for a rapid means of securing a subject during swiftwater rescues. The Cearley Rescue Strap has proven itself in those situations where time or circumstances prevent placing the subject in a harness, but a secure attachment must be accomplished quickly. The original Cearley Rescue Strap is manufactured exclusively by CMC.

THE CEARLEY RESCUE STRAP®

"All firefighters should consider carrying the Cearley Rescue Strap in his or her turnouts because it has many useful applications on the fire ground as well as during technical rescues. The Cearley Rescue Strap may be used to quickly secure a downed firefighter who must be dragged, lifted through a roof hole, or lowered down a ladder during Rapid Intervention operations. It can be used as a hasty chest harness to pluck victims from above-ground windows and other fire ground predicaments, in the same manner that we use it to rescue victims during a helicopter-based swiftwater rescue operations. The Cearley Rescue Strap may be used to secure Ventilation Team members from falling through the roof when they are cutting ventilation holes. It can even be used to construct an emergency anchor if deteriorating conditions make it necessary to self-rescue from upper floors. With our department, the Cearley Rescue Strap has already proven itself on rescues removing people from cliffs, confined spaces, trenches, floods, and other situations where lives depend on quick and simple securing of victims for evacuation. In fact, the list of fire ground and rescue applications is limited only by the firefighter's imagination." *Captain Larry Collins, Urban Search & Rescue Company, Los Angeles County Fire Department*

**DESIGN PURPOSE**

The Cearley Rescue Strap is a proven new rescue device designed to offer security for the victim as well as simplicity and versatility for the rescuer. The Cearley Rescue Strap consists of a continuous length of 12,000-pound, bright yellow webbing with no mechanical or hardware attachments. An uncomplicated rescue device such as the Cearley Rescue Strap, is easier to operate and offers less chance of improper or unsafe usage. The utilization of the Cearley Rescue Strap is limited only by the rescuer's imagination.

**USER INFORMATION**

User Information shall be provided to the user of the product. CMC recommends separating the User Information from the equipment and retaining the information in a permanent record. CMC also recommends making a copy of the information to keep with the equipment and that the information should be referred to before and after each use.

**INSPECTION**

Inspect the equipment according to your department's policy for inspecting life safety equipment. Inspect the equipment prior to entry into service, after each use, and at least once every 12 months. The equipment should be thoroughly inspected by an inspector that meets your department's training standard for inspection of life safety equipment. Keep a record of the date, person performing the inspection and results, as well as the date of first use, name of users and any other pertinent information necessary to keep accurate track of the equipment's usage history in the equipment log or on a tag that attaches to the equipment. Each user should be trained in equipment inspection and should inspect the equipment before each use.

When inspecting the equipment, check the webbing and rope for cuts, worn or frayed areas, broken fibers, soft or hard spots, discoloration, or melted fibers. Check the stitching for pulled threads, abrasion, or breaks. Check the hardware for damage, sharp edges, and improper operation. If any of the above is noted, or if the equipment has been subjected to shock loads, fall loads, or abuse other than normal use, remove the equipment from service and destroy it. If there is any doubt about the serviceability of the equipment, remove the equipment from service and destroy it.

The service life of equipment depends greatly on the type of use and the environment of use. Because these factors vary greatly, a precise service life of the equipment cannot be provided.

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 **WARNING**

- **SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH MAY RESULT FROM THE IMPROPER USE OF THIS EQUIPMENT.**
- **THIS EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED FOR USE BY EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS ONLY.**
- **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO USE THIS EQUIPMENT WITHOUT PRIOR TRAINING.**
- **THOROUGHLY READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL LABELS AND INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USE.**
- **USE, INSPECT AND REPAIR ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS.**

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 **WARNING**

- **DO NOT USE FOR CARGO**
- **DO NOT USE FOR EXTENDED LIFTS**
- **THE CEARLEY RESCUE STRAP IS INTENDED FOR SHORT TERM USE ONLY**

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**ISO 9001 Certified**

## USING THE CEARLEY RESCUE STRAP

As a multipurpose rescue device, the Cearley Rescue Strap can and should be used in the following rescue situations: swiftwater and blue-water rescues, high rise, over the side, cliff, confined space, structure and brush fires, and any other rescue that the rescuer needs to secure a victim or themselves. The Cearley Rescue Strap is compact and can easily be carried in any vest or harness. The many functions of the Cearley Rescue Strap make it a must for the rescuer's personal rescue equipment. The Cearley Rescue Strap should be included in all new firefighters initial equipment issue. They should be trained in and have this rescue device at their immediate disposal for their safety as well as that of any potential victim.

### SWIFTWATER AND BLUE-WATER RESCUES

Swiftwater and blue-water rescues in most cases will be dynamic, with the rescuer swimming to the victim, either tethered or untethered. To use the Cearley Rescue Strap in these rescues, a carabiner is attached to one of the loops. The loop and carabiner are gripped in the prominent hand (right hand for instruction purposes), and the rest of the webbing is rick-racked with the reinforced loop on top and open. Do not relax your grip on the strap while swimming. Swim to victim, control from the back, and extend both arms under victim's arms to their front. The rescuer then grasps the loop with his left hand and pulls it to the back where he feeds the carabiner through the loop, centering and pushing the connecting point tight against the victim's back and connects the carabiner into the collection point of the rescue line. Important training points: keep rick-rack small (6- to 8-inch loops). Do not release grip on the strap while swimming. When pulling loop to the back of the victim, use resistance in your right hand to insure webbing location across the victim's chest. Tighten and center the connecting point on the victim's back before loading the line. Take command of the victim and be positive in your actions.

### HIGH RISE RESCUES

The Cearley Rescue Strap should be used on all contact roof rescues. These rescues could be the result of fire, earthquake or other natural or man-made disasters. The Cearley Rescue Strap is placed around the victim or rescuer, under their arms with the connecting point either in front or back, centered and pulled tight. The rescuing vehicle may be a helicopter or any other hoisting or lowering equipment. If the victim is hoisted or lowered unaccompanied, the connecting point should be in the front.

### OVER THE SIDE AND CLIFF RESCUES

This type of rescue usually involves a rescuer rappelling over the side or cliff area to the victim. When contact is made by the rescuer, the victim can be secured with the Cearley Rescue Strap to prevent further injuries or falling further. If the victim is uninjured, the rescuer can attach the Cearley Rescue Strap to the rescue line and they can be pulled up together. If the victim is injured, a helicopter hoist may be required. If the victim is to be hoisted in the Cearley Rescue Strap, a contact rescuer should accompany them, much the same as in the swiftwater procedure. In most, if not all, over the side, cliff, and high rise rescues, the connecting point on the Cearley Rescue Strap should be in front.

## CONFINED SPACE RESCUES

The use of the Cearley Rescue Strap should be considered on all confined space rescues. The Cearley Rescue Strap is designed with simplicity and compactness in mind and in most cases the procedures to be used can easily be explained to the victim. If verbal contact is made with the victim, and they are uninjured and mobile, the Cearley Rescue Strap can be lowered to them by rescue line and carabiner. If a contact rescue is necessary, the Cearley Rescue Strap is secured around the victim by the rescuer and they are retrieved together.

### STRUCTURE FIRES AND BRUSH FIRES

Structure fires inherently offer many scenarios where the Cearley Rescue Strap could and should be utilized. To name a few, secure the Cearley Rescue Strap around a victim, fellow firefighter or yourself and lower from a window ledge, aerial ladder, or any escape exit. Rappel a rescuer to a victim on a window ledge, secure victim in the Cearley Rescue Strap, attach into your rescue line and either be hoisted or lowered to safety. As for brush fires, the scenarios will change primarily because of the terrain, but the need to have the Cearley Rescue Strap available is much the same. As noted previously, the only limiting factors in the use of the Cearley Rescue Strap is the rescuer's imagination.

### SUMMARY

The Cearley Rescue Strap should be utilized in any rescue situation where a rescuer needs to quickly secure a victim to a raising or lowering apparatus, a rescue hoist, a contact rescuer or to secure a victim so as to prevent further injury.

### CARRYING, MAINTENANCE & STORAGE

During use, carrying and storage keep the equipment away from acids, alkalis, exhaust emissions, rust and strong chemicals. Do not expose the equipment to flame or high temperatures. Carry the equipment where it will be protected as the equipment could melt or burn and fail if exposed to flame or high temperatures.

If the equipment becomes soiled, it can be washed in cold water with a mild detergent that is safe for use with nylon and polyester. Dry out of direct sunlight. Do not dry in an automatic dryer. Store in a cool, dry location. Do not store where the equipment may be exposed to moist air, particularly where dissimilar metals are stored together.

### REPAIR

All repair work shall be performed by the manufacturer. All other work or modifications void the warranty and releases CMC from all liability and responsibility as the manufacturer.

### SAMPLE LOG

The sample log suggests records that should be maintained by the purchaser or user of life safety equipment.

Equipment Inspection and Maintenance Log			
Item _____ # _____		Date in Service _____	
Brand/Model _____		Strength _____	
Date	How Used or Maintained	Comments	Name