

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE READ AND SAVE**



**K9 LIFESAVER HARNESS™**

**Made in USA**  
of US and foreign components

**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 below 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

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**ISO 9001 Certified**

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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.**

The **CMC K9 Lifesaver Harness** was designed to meet the needs of responders for vertical or low angle evacuation of dogs. The harness is manufactured to the same design criteria and quality as our human harnesses. Its unique design features both high strength and comfort, allowing for a safe evacuation for both the dog and responder.

**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.

Additional information can be found in NFPA 1670, *Standard on Operations & Training for Technical SAR Incidents, Chapter 17: Animal Technical Rescue.*

**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.

**DONNING THE HARNESS**

- 1) Disconnect the quick release buckles on the right side of the harness and lengthen the straps. Disconnect the quick release buckle at the chest and lengthen the two chest straps.
- 2) Place the dog's head through the opening created by the chest pad and lay the main panel on the dog's back. The main lift point (transverse yellow web with black loop) should be at the withers.
- 3) Reconnect the quick release buckles on the right side of the harness and adjust until snug. Reconnect the quick release buckle at the chest and adjust the length of the chest straps.
- 4) Adjust the straps so the harness fits the dog securely. Make sure none of the straps are in a position that could injure the dog. You may find the web lengths to be particularly long for the dog. This was purposely done in an attempt to accommodate common size ranges.

**USING THE HARNESS**

- 1) Prior to any vertical evacuation, deploy the rear assembly and fasten around the dog's hindquarters. Make sure the fabric panel runs *between* the dog's rear legs and the dog's tail is free through the slot in the rear assembly. Connect the quick release buckles and snug the straps but do not make them too tight. This will aid in the dog's comfort while waiting for the start of the evacuation.
- 2) The dog can be attached via the main lift point at the withers for a vertical evacuation or via the D-ring at the chest for a low angle evacuation. A CMC Pick-Off Strap (#201106) allows the dog's position relative to the responder to be adjusted.
- 3) Prior to lifting the dog, tighten the front and rear transverse straps of the harness so they are very snug. The dog can be managed using the center handle. Depending on the terrain, the dog can be positioned beside the responder or in the responder's lap. For descents CMC recommends the use of the tactical rappel method\* to keep one hand free at all times to allow for additional support of the dog via the handle or the rear transverse web loop.
- 4) The struggles of an agitated dog may result in injury or cause the animal to work its legs out of any type of harness. CMC strongly recommends, if conditions permit, determining how the dog will react by first trying the harness at a low height where the dog can be safely returned to the ground.

\*See the CMC Rope Rescue Manual for details.