

**DO NOT REMOVE PRIOR TO SALE!**

**Model Nos. 4430 or 6340 –  
OWNER'S MANUAL**

**HIGH WEARABILITY TYPE V  
USER ASSISTED INFLATABLE BELT  
PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE**

**ADULT UNIVERSAL – FOR PERSONS OVER 80 POUNDS**



Deflated



Inflated

**I. APPROVAL CONDITIONS and CARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS**

This *inflatable* belt is approved by the U S Coast Guard as a Type V User Assisted Personal Flotation Device (PFD). It is APPROVED ONLY WHEN WORN for use as a Flotation Aid, Type III PFD for recreational use on calm inland waters. ***It is not approved for water skiing or other high-speed activity.*** This inflatable was designed to be more comfortable and less restrictive to wear than inherently buoyant PFDs. When used and serviced according to this owner's manual, this personal flotation device (PFD) can greatly increase your chances of survival. Not recommended for non-swimmers or weak swimmers. Users of inflatable PFDs must be at least 16 years of age.

**See Page 3 for Conditions for Type V Approval.**

**WEAR YOUR PFD!** Most drowned victims of boating accidents owned PFDs, but were not wearing them when they died. Most drowning occurs in inland waters, not way out at sea, and most within a few feet of safety. **If you DO NOT intend to wear this PFD, then SELECT ONE that you will.** Doing this provides feedback to manufacturer's, as to what makes a PFD wearable.

## **SPECIFICATIONS**

**Chest size:** 30-52 inches

**Weight range:** over 80 pounds

**Age Range:** 16 years and older

**Buoyancy (minimum):** 15.5 pounds after CO<sub>2</sub> inflation 22.5 pounds after full inflation. (See Donning and Inflation instructions pages 7 & 8.)

**Inflation System:**

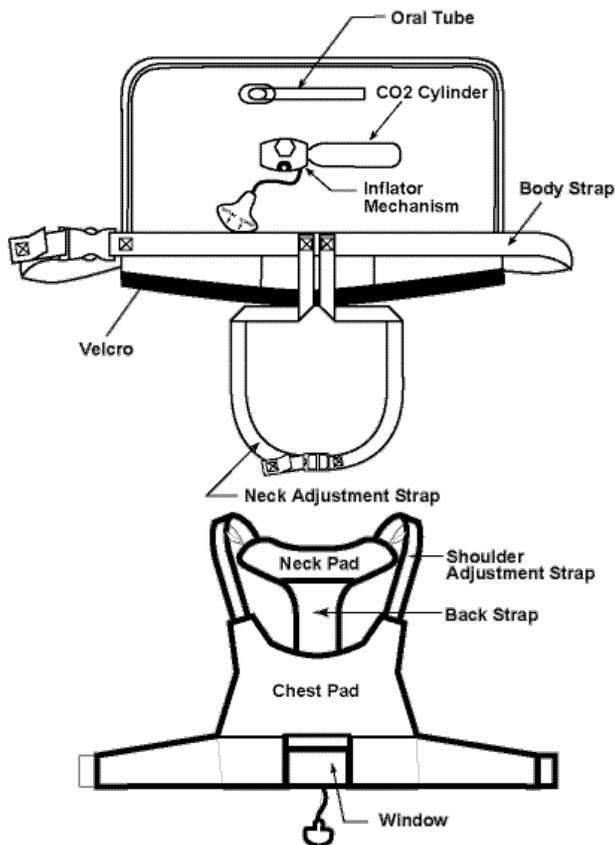
Manual Inflation Mechanism (located on front of chamber)

Oral Tube (located on front of chamber)

**CO<sub>2</sub> Cylinder:** 16 Gram, 3/8" thread.

**\*\* USE REPLACEMENT KIT NO. 0925 \*\***

## **GENERAL ARRANGEMENT**



Revised: 2006-05-08

## II. CONDITIONS FOR TYPE V APPROVAL

Conditional approvals are granted by the Coast Guard for PFDs that:

1. Do not meet all the requirements for approval under the Type I through IV categories, but offer other significant safety features, or
2. Have features or uses not found in Types I through IV PFDs that require special user knowledge.

The conditions let the user overcome design traits that would otherwise prevent approval.

Wearing a PFD is one of the most important things you can do to help you save your life if you accidentally fall in the water. Finding a comfortable PFD that you will wear is the key. This PFD design offers the significant safety features of being lightweight, low profile and comfortable for continuous wear. This PFD ***must be worn***, to meet carriage requirements, so that it is available on the wearer when needed.

This PFD is also approved as a Type V because the buoyancy provided by the CO<sub>2</sub> gas from the cylinder, does not provide as much buoyancy as a Type III inflatable PFD. However, the buoyancy that a CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder provides is enough to turn many people to a stable, face up position, so that they can add additional buoyancy, if necessary, by blowing air into the chamber through the oral tube. When fully inflated, using both the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder and a few additional puffs of air through the oral tube, the buoyancy of this PFD is equal to that of an inflatable Type III.

Finally, this PFD is a Type V because you must know how to readjust it to float you best. Wearing this PFD, knowing how to achieve full buoyancy and how to maximize performance are necessary for it to provide an equivalent level of safety to PFDs without user conditions on their approval. See Page 9 “Maximizing Performance”.

### **“APPROVED ONLY WHEN WORN “**

This PFD has the “Approved Only When Worn” condition on it’s approval because if it is not worn whenever above deck and underway, it cannot be counted as a PFD to meet the carriage requirements on your boat. Wearing this PFD is intended to:

1. Provide it with the extra attention associated with use, and
2. Increase safety enormously because you have it on when you need it.

## **MANDATORY CARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS**

Federal Regulations in 33 CFR 175-1993 require you to carry Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices (PFDs) legibly marked with the Coast Guard approval number, which are in good and serviceable condition, and are the correct size for each person on board. To be considered serviceable, this PFD shall not exhibit deterioration that could diminish its performance such as broken or deformed hardware, detached webbing, rotted structural components, air leaks or nonfunctional oral tubes. Unless worn inflated, this PFD must also be properly armed with a full CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder, inflation system indicator and an accessible manual inflation lanyard. Since this PFD is “approved only when worn” it must be worn under the conditions specified on Page 1.

## **III. INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE**

Know your PFD. Familiarize yourself with its features and practice using it before attempting to use it in deep water or in an emergency. You must accept responsibility for proper use and care of this device, and in-water trials to check its performance. This device is not recommended for non-swimmers, since panic by the user in an emergency situation can prevent proper donning and inflation. This PFD is not approved for children under 16.

## **PRE-DONNING INSTRUCTIONS**

Check the following before using this PFD:

1. Inspect PFD for damage.
2. Examine inflation mechanism status indicators.
3. Examine CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder face for puncture hole.
4. Be sure cylinder is screwed in tight.

Read below for more detailed information

### **1. Inspecting Your PFD for Damage**

Make sure that the PFD is free of rips, tears or punctures. This type of damage on the outside covering indicates that the *Inflatable Chamber* may have been exposed to potentially damaging elements. If these defects expose the yellow chamber material, discontinue use of the PFD until you have had the PFD inspected by an certified Stearns Repair Facility. If these defects are noticed but the yellow chamber fabric is not exposed, the *Inflatable Chamber* should also be checked for leaks. The *Inflatable Chamber* should also be checked for leaks at the beginning of each season and at least every two months during the boating season. The leak test procedure is described under USER’S INSPECTION. Refer to Pages 14 and 15.

## **2. Examine the inflation mechanism status indicators.**

The indicator will tell you if the inflation mechanism is properly ARMED/REARMED and ready for activation. If the indicator shows RED, the mechanism is not ready to fire, and you must rearm the mechanism to set the indicator to GREEN. Refer to rearming instructions on Pages 11 and 12, and on the PFD chamber.

## **3. Examine Your CO<sub>2</sub> Cylinder**

The CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder contains the gas charge that will inflate your PFD when the inflation mechanism is fired. You must verify that the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder installed is of the correct size and has not been previously fired. There are no indicators to show that the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder is full. See the Product Specifications section on Page 2 of this manual for the proper size cylinder. The size includes both thread size and gram weight. *To examine the cylinder, you must unscrew it and visually examine the flat surface of the threaded end.* If the cylinder cap is punctured or damaged in any way, discard it and install a new, undamaged cylinder in the mechanism. If the cylinder is OK, you must properly screw it back into the mechanism.

## **4. Cylinder Tightness**

When screwing the cylinder back into the PFD, make sure it is snug. Over tightening can damage the inflator seal, but if not snug the cylinder can unscrew during use and may leak or not be punctured when the “Jerk to Inflate” lanyard is pulled.

### **Additional Notes on CO<sub>2</sub> Cylinders :**

- a. FAILURE to properly rearm the inflation mechanism prior to installing the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder will result in a premature activation of the cylinder. Follow the rearming steps exactly. See Pages 11 and 12.
- b. CO<sub>2</sub> cylinders are good for **one** inflation and cannot be recharged.
- c. CO<sub>2</sub> cylinders are made with a protective coating that may wear off after a period of use or exposure to the environment. When this coating is worn off, the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder may start to show some signs of rusting. If this occurs, replace the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder.
- d. If a gram scale (such as postal scale) is available, it is recommended to weigh the cylinder to verify that it meets the minimum weight listed on the cylinder.

## **OTHER USE GUIDE LINES -**

**STUDY** this manual and practice using your belt to become thoroughly familiar with its features and operation. Your inflatable PFD will not provide buoyancy until **you** inflate it. See Pages 17 and 18 for testing your PFD.

**ALWAYS** re-arm the CO<sub>2</sub> inflation system after each discharge. The CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder is good for only one inflation and then must be replaced. Use **ONLY** genuine Stearns replacement kits for rearming your PFD. See Pages 11 and 12 for rearming instructions.

**NEVER** wear inside clothing that can restrict expansion.

**NEVER** inflate in a tightly confined space.

**NEVER** inflate with any type of pump.

**NEVER** actuate with CO<sub>2</sub> inflator if the belt is already fully inflated.

**NEVER** use in below freezing temperatures unless worn partly inflated. At or below 40 °F inflation time with CO<sub>2</sub> gas will be longer. Wearing a partially inflated PFD under these conditions will provide some initial buoyancy while the PFD fully inflates. **Caution:** Do not fully inflate orally and then inflate with the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder. Repeated CO<sub>2</sub> inflation after oral inflation will damage the PFD to the point that it will not hold air or float.

**AVOID** contact with sharp objects.

**AVOID** exposure to extreme heat (140 °F or higher).

***Failure to heed the above cautions may result in personal injury or death.***

## DONNING and INFLATION INSTRUCTIONS

After completing the pre-donning check, follow these instructions to don, inflate and adjust the PFD for maximum performance.

- 1. Loosen Shoulder Straps.** Insert left arm between back strap and deflated vest (See fig.1). Pull vest on over your head (See fig.2). Pull buckle to front so you can see it. Buckle and adjust by pulling on free end of the belt. Secure the excess strap by tucking it under the belt. **Always position the belt with the center window in front. The Velcro® opening should be on the bottom. The “*Jerk to Inflate*” lanyard should be hanging downward.** Adjust Shoulder Straps to a comfortable fit.



Step 1 – Snap buckle, snug waist strap.



- 2. Pull down on the “Jerk to Inflate lanyard to inflate chamber.**

Step 2 – Jerk tab to Inflate.

- 3. Grasp the neck adjustment strap tucked under the inflated chamber. Slip the strap (located at the center of the chamber) over your head.**



Step 3 – Put webbing over head.

## Donning and Inflation Instructions – cont'd

4. Adjust the length of the neck strap for desired comfort and head support. Pull down on the adjustment strap to tighten, or lift up the plastic slide to loosen.

**Shoulder Straps may need to be Loosened to adjust Waist Strap.**



Step 4 –  
Adjust neck strap.

5. After CO<sub>2</sub> inflation, the performance of the PFD may be satisfactory without further action. However, higher buoyancy is easily available through second stage inflation. Using the oral inflation tube, you may top off buoyancy to the desired level.



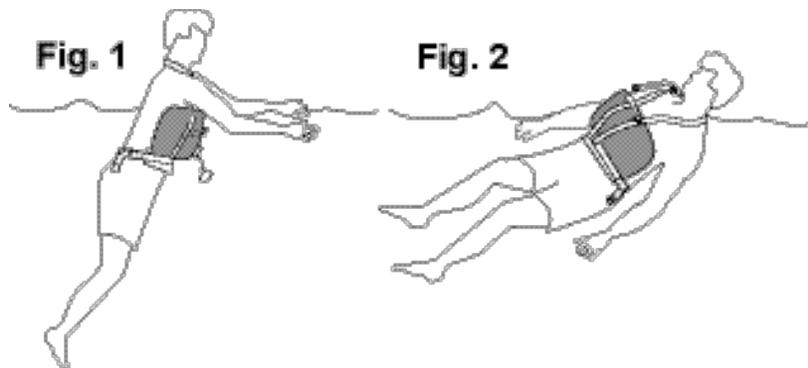
Step 5 –  
Oral Inflate.

## MAXIMIZING PERFORMANCE

Why should someone do this? It is important to learn how to use this PFD in the water. Try your PFD in the water before attempting to use it in deep water or in an emergency to find out what position and adjustments provide the best support for you.

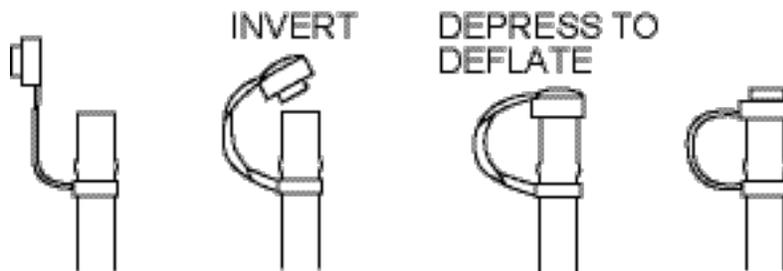
It is important, especially in cold water and wave conditions, to get your head out of the water as much as possible. Doing this will reduce the amount of heat loss through your head, (see "Hypothermia", Pages 19 and 20), improve your ability to see around you to identify any sources of rescue and to keep your mouth out of the water as much as possible to reduce the chance of inhaling water. Most, but perhaps not all people, will be able to get their heads completely out of the water by placing their bodies in a near vertical position and float with their arms extended out over the top of the chamber (see figure 1 below).

Once in the water with the PFD inflated, you should be able to float comfortably on your back (see figure 2 below). You may find it more comfortable to loosen the body strap slightly, without unbuckling it, and let it slide up to your chest. Then, orally add more air to the chamber if necessary and readjust the neck strap to provide head support. You may find that positioning the neck strap in various locations on your neck or even the back of your head, will provide better head support.



## DEFLATION INSTRUCTIONS

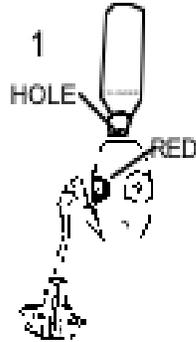
Deflating may be accomplished by inserting the deflation tool located on the dust cap into the end of the oral inflation tube while gently squeezing the inflation chamber. Reposition the dust cap over the end of the inflation tube after deflating to help protect the valve inside.



**DO NOT TWIST OR WRING INFLATABLE CHAMBER TO DEFLATE.**

If for any reason the oral valve remains open, depress it several times. If it does not release, discontinue use of this PFD and return to Stearns Inc for repair. In an emergency situation, hold thumb over the valve if it will not close.

## REARMING INSTRUCTIONS



### STEP 1

**Unscrew** used CO<sub>2</sub> **cylinder** in a **counterclockwise** direction and immediately **discard**. **Do not insert** new **cylinder** at this time.

To avoid confusion later in the rearming process, we suggest you throw away the old CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder now.



### STEP 2

**Close** manual inflator arm within inflator body and carefully **insert** a new **green** indicator **tab** so that it fully **covers** the **red semi-circle** on the body.



### STEP 3

Look into threaded cylinder receiver and view the gasket. If worn, contact Stearns Inc. (1-800-STEARNNS) for the nearest certified Stearns Repair Facility.

## REARMING INSTRUCTIONS (cont.)

### Step 4

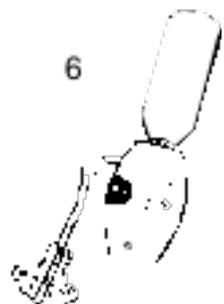


**Inspect** the face of the new **cylinder**. Be sure it is **smooth** and has no holes or **scratches**. There is a gross weight on the cylinder. If you have any questions about cylinder integrity, weigh the cylinder on a small scale, such as a postage scale. **Compare** the **weight** printed on the cylinder to the actual weight. If they **do not match**, get **another** cylinder.



### STEP 5

Screw new cylinder in a clockwise direction firmly into the inflator. Do not over-tighten, but ensure the fit is tight.

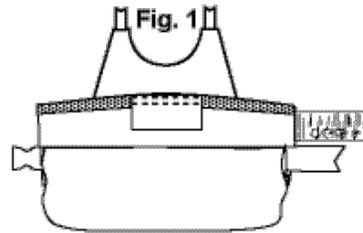


### STEP 6

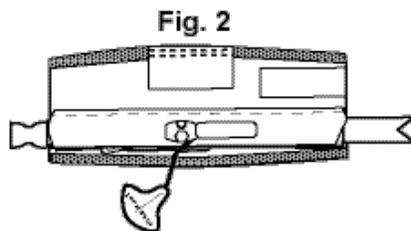
**Check** the inflator **arming indicator every boating trip**. The indicator and cylinder tightness tell you if there is a need for service. **Check** the **cylinder face regularly** to ensure it is not punctured. Be sure cylinder is screwed in tight.

## REPACKING INSTRUCTIONS

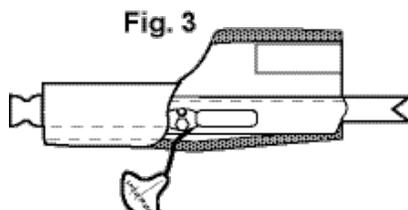
Always dry out, **deflate** the PFD and **rearm** the inflation mechanism. Follow REARMING instructions prior to REPACKAGING.



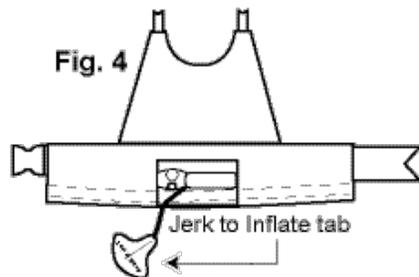
**Step 1** (Fig. 1)  
Position as shown in Fig. 1. Reference General Arrangement on page 2.



**Step 2** (Fig. 2)  
Roll up the air chamber on top of the neck strap with mechanism remaining on top.



**Step 3** (Fig. 3)  
Close the cover with its tape fasteners, aligning the indicator's ready status indicator to be visible through the window.



**Step 4** (Fig. 4)  
Be sure to leave the "Jerk to Inflate" tab exposed at the bottom of the belt.

#### **IV. IS YOUR PFD IN GOOD AND SERVICEABLE CONDITION?**

Check your PFD between outings to be sure that it is properly armed; that it is free of rips, tears or holes; that all seams are securely sewn; and that the fabric, straps and hardware are still strong. Check to be sure your cylinder is screwed in tight. Inspect the inflatable portion of the PFD in accordance with Care and Maintenance Instructions.

#### **V. CARE AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS GENERAL PRODUCT LIFE EXPECTANCY**

The reliability and service life of this PFD depends greatly upon how it is used and cared for. Avoid storing PFD in direct sunlight. Sunlight contains ultraviolet radiation that weakens synthetic materials. Prolonged exposures to high temperatures and high humidity may shorten service life of this PFD. While it is known that these elements degrade the materials, every use environment is unique so there is no sure way to estimate how long the PFD will last. It is for this reason that you must follow the care and cleaning instructions and perform the maintenance and service checks. This will assure that the PFD remains functional and will maximize the useful life of this PFD. Failure to follow these instructions rigorously could result in a non-functioning PFD causing **injury or death**.

#### **USER'S INSPECTION**

The users should perform the following checks before each season, or before a long journey, or before each outing, as recommended below:

- 1. Physical Inspection of Cover and Straps** - Examine outer shell fabric, seams, webbing attachments, buckles, slides, etc. Fabric fading can indicate a loss of strength. Check for strength by pulling seams and attachments snugly. If device shows any signs of damage, return to a certified Stearns Repair Facility or replace the entire device. This inspection should be performed each outing.

2. **Oral Inflation Leak Test** - This test should be performed every two months and at the start of each season. Inflate buoyancy chamber using the oral inflation valve and leave to rest for 16 hours. When buoyancy chamber remains firm and full of air there is no leakage and chamber is operational. If the chamber deflates during this leak test, it is no longer in operational condition and should not be used. Some types of leaks can be repaired by a certified Stearns Repair Facility, while others are not repairable. If the PFD leaks, either return to certified Stearns Repair Facility for evaluation and repair, or discard the PFD.
3. **Function Test of Oral Valve** - With the PFD inflated, remove the dust protection cap, and test the valve by pushing it down using the tab provided on the cap (refer to Page 10). The valve should depress easily, and when depressed, air should escape. When released the valve should automatically return to the closed position and reseal.

#### **REARMING KIT(S)**

Use replacement kit no. 0925. See Rearming Instructions on pages 11 and 12.

#### **CARE AND CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS**

**Drying** – If the device is wet, place on a coat hanger to allow thorough drying. Do not place in direct sunlight to dry. Do not use any heat source or place on radiator.

**Cleaning** – Damp wipe only with mild detergent recommended for synthetic fabrics. Remove grease and oil immediately. After every use rinse well with fresh water. Read instructions provided on the device.

- **DO NOT MACHINE WASH**
- **DO NOT MACHINE DRY**
- **DO NOT DRY CLEAN**
- **DO NOT USE SOLVENT BASED CLEANERS**
- **DO NOT BLEACH**

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## **STORAGE**

- Store in clean, cool, dry area.
- Do not store in direct sunlight.

## **REPAIR**

If you have any question about the condition or integrity of this product call 1-800-STEARNNS (1-800-783-2767). **A damaged device must be repaired by certified Stearns Repair Facility or discarded.**

## **SERVICING**

Stearns strongly recommends that this device be inspected at least every 24 months by a certified Stearns Repair Facility or STEARNNS Inc. Call 1-800-STEARNNS (1-800-783-2767) for your nearest certified Stearns Repair Facility.

## **VI. WHY ARE PFDs REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT?**

Drownings are the leading cause of fatalities involving recreational boating. A PFD provides flotation to help keep your head above water, help you stay face up in the water and increase your chances for survival and rescue. Most adults only need an extra 7 to 12 pounds of flotation to keep their heads above water. The proper size PFD will properly support the weight of the wearer.

This is an inflatable PFD. It does not provide any flotation unless it is inflated. Familiarize yourself with the use of this PFD, so you know what to do when you need to use it.

## VII. HOW AND WHY TO TEST YOUR PFD?

Inflate your PFD and try it out in the water to:

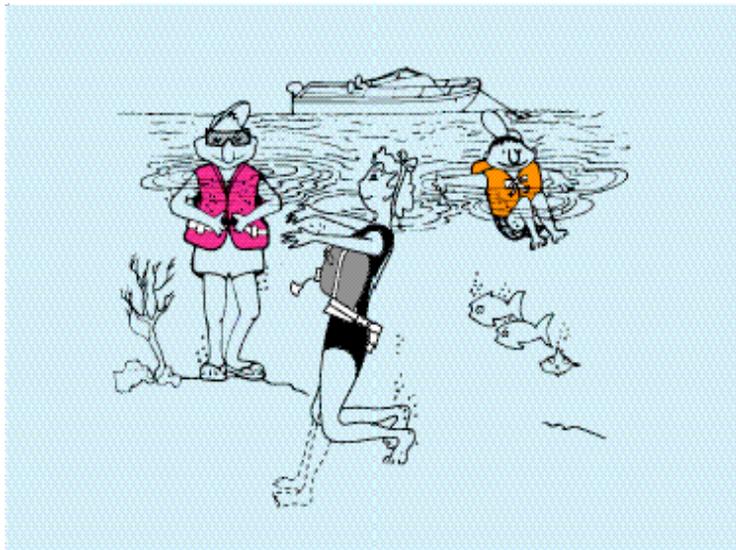
- Make sure it floats you:  
*Comfortably*  
(When worn properly)  
*Adequately for expected wave conditions*  
(Body shapes/densities affect performance)
- Make sure it works:  
*A flow of bubbles should not appear*  
(See Section V for leak tests)  
*It should inflate quick and easily*
- Learn how it works by:  
*Activating the CO<sub>2</sub> inflation system*  
*Rearming the CO<sub>2</sub> inflation system*  
*Using the Oral inflator tube*

### HOW DO YOU TEST YOUR PFD USING THE MANUAL INFLATOR?

1. To test your inflatable PFD, you will need:
  - Your **fully armed PFD**, and
  - **Rearming kit** approved for your PFD. (This kit contains a CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder that you will need to use following this test.)
2. Put on the PFD.
3. Actuate the inflation system by jerking firmly downward on the pull tab. The PFD should fully inflate within 5 seconds.
4. Pull neck strap over head and adjust. See MAXIMIZING PERFORMANCE on Page 9.
5. Get into shallow water, just deep enough that you can stand with your head above the surface.
6. See if the PFD will float you on your back or just slightly back of vertical. In a relaxed floating position, verify that your mouth is well above the water's surface. Note the effect of where you hold your legs on how you float.
7. Get out of the water and remove the PFD. Remove the used CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder from the PFD inflator. Completely deflate the PFD using the oral inflator.
8. Let the PFD dry thoroughly. **REARM** and **REPACK** the PFD in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (refer to Pages 11, 12 and 13).

### HOW DO YOU TEST YOUR PFD USING THE ORAL INFLATOR?

1. To test your inflatable PFD, you will **not need any spare parts**.
2. Remove the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder to prevent inadvertent activation of the manual inflation which could potentially damage the PFD. Inspect the threaded end to confirm it's un-used.
3. Put on the PFD.
4. Get into shallow water, just deep enough that you can stand with head above the surface.
5. If you are a weak or non-swimmer, inflate the PFD partially so that you are supported well enough to complete inflation without touching bottom, either orally or manually. Note this level of inflation because it is the minimum needed for you to safely use this inflatable PFD.
6. Fully inflate the PFD using the oral inflator.
7. See if the PFD will float you on your back or slightly back of vertical. In a relaxed floating position, verify that your mouth is well above the water's surface. Note the effect of where you hold your legs on how you float.
8. Get out of the water and remove the PFD. Completely deflate the PFD using the oral inflator.
9. Let the PFD dry thoroughly. **REARM AND REPACK** the PFD in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Refer to Pages 11, 12 and 13.





### VIII. WEAR YOUR PFD

In approximately 80 percent of all boating fatalities, the victims were not wearing a PFD. Most fatal accidents happen on calm sunny days. This inflatable PFD is much more comfortable to wear than other PFD types. Get into the habit of wearing this PFD. Non-swimmers and children especially should wear a hybrid or non-inflatable PFD at all times when on or near the water.

### IX. HYPOTHERMIA

Prolonged exposure to cold water causes a condition known as hypothermia — a substantial loss of body heat, which leads to exhaustion and unconsciousness. Most drowning victims first suffer from hypothermia. The following chart shows the effects of hypothermia:

<b>HOW HYPOTHERMIA AFFECTS MOST ADULTS</b>			
Water Temperature °C                      °(F)		Exhaustion or Unconsciousness	Expected Time of Survival
0.3	(32.5)	UNDER 15 MIN	< 15 TO 45 MIN
0.3 TO 4.4	(32.5 to 40)	15 TO 30 MIN	30 TO 90 MIN
4.4 TO 10	(40 to 50)	30 TO 60 MIN	1 TO 3 HOURS
10 TO 15.6	(50 to 60)	1 TO 2 HOURS	1 TO 6 HOURS
15.6 TO 21.1	(60 to 70)	2 TO 7 HOURS	2 TO 40 HOURS
21.1 TO 26.7	(70 to 80)	2 TO 12 HOURS	3 HOURS TO INDEFINITE
Over 26.7	(Over 80)	INDEFINITE	INDEFINITE

PFDs can increase survival time because they allow you to float without using energy treading water and because of their insulating properties. Naturally, the warmer the water, the less insulation you will require. When operating in cold waters [below 60°F (15.6 °C)] you should consider using a coat or jacket style PFD or a Type V Thermal Protective PFD as they cover more of the body than the vest or belt style PFDs.

### **Some Points to Remember About Hypothermia Protection:**

1. Always wear your PFD. Even if you become incapacitated due to hypothermia, the PFD will keep you afloat and greatly improve your chances of rescue.
2. Do not attempt to swim unless it is to reach a nearby craft, fellow survivor, or a floating object on which you can lean or climb. Swimming increases the rate of body heat loss. In cold water, drown-proofing methods that require putting your head in the water are not recommended. Keep your head out of the water. This will greatly lessen heat loss and increase your survival time.
3. To conserve body heat use the standard H.E.L.P. position. Keep your arms as close to your body as possible to reduce the amount of skin surface that is exposed to the water. Keeping water out of your arm pits is especially important. Drawing your legs up into a seated position with your knees together will also help to conserve body heat.
4. Keep a positive attitude about your survival and rescue. This will improve your chances of extending your survival time until rescued. Your will-to-live does make a difference!
5. If there is more than one person in the water, huddling is recommended while waiting to be rescued. This action tends to reduce the rate of heat loss and thus increase the survival time.



## **X. EACH OF THESE DEVICES IS INTENDED TO HELP YOU SAVE YOUR OWN LIFE**

For your PFD to function properly follow these suggestions to verify that it fits, floats and remains in good condition.

1. Check the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder inflation mechanism status indicator before each use.
2. Get in the habit of rearming the inflation mechanism immediately after each CO<sub>2</sub> inflation.
3. Be sure your CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder is screwed in tight.
4. Try your wearable PFD on and adjust it until it fits comfortably in and out of the water.
5. Mark your PFD with your name if you are the only wearer.
6. Do not alter your PFD. If it doesn't fit properly, get one that does. An altered device is no longer Coast Guard approved.
7. Your PFD is not intended for use as a fender or kneeling pad.
8. If your PFD is wet, allow it to dry thoroughly before storing it. Store it in a well-ventilated area.
9. Do not dry your PFD in front of a radiator or other source of direct heat.

## **XI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you need more information about PFDs and safe recreational boating, contact your state boating authority, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadron, Red Cross, or your nearest unit of the U.S. Coast Guard.

- Toll Free Boating Safety Hotline: 1-800-368-5647
- To find out about free boating courses in your area call 1-800-336-BOAT (in Virginia, call 1-800-245-BOAT).

or see the USCG Boating Web Page at [www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org).

### **DO NOT ATTACH PFDs TO YOUR BOAT**

Each PFD has straps, hooks, buckles, or other means for securing the device in place on the wearer. Some PFDs also incorporate decorative Dee rings or tabs. Such items are not to be used to attach the device to the boat. Attaching the device to the boat will not permit it to function as intended.

### **CO<sub>2</sub> PERMEATION LOSS**

CO<sub>2</sub> gas will permeate the chamber fabric over time. Oral inflation will be necessary to maintain full buoyancy.

### **BUDDY LINE INFORMATION**

Buddy lines, when provided, are to be used by people adrift in the water, to attach themselves to one another and aid in staying together. **Buddy lines are not designed for lifting.**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INITIAL ARMING, REARMING, REPACKING, OR NEAREST CERTIFIED STEARNS REPAIR FACILITY CALL 1-800-STEARNs (1-800-783-2767).**

**PRODUCT REGISTRATION:  
PLEASE MAIL REGISTRATION CARD OR CALL  
1-800-STEARNs (1-800-783-2767)  
IN ORDER TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT UPDATES  
ON THIS PFD.**



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