

FLIGHT OPERATION INSTRUCTION – 141

V1.0 Aug 11

Hastings Rescue Helicopter EAM T6 Life Raft

1. Introduction

The EAM T6 life raft is stationed at the Hastings rescue helicopter base and is carried during over water operations. It is designed for 6 persons normally but has an overload capacity of 9 persons. It is important that all flight crew are familiar with its contents, how to store and operate it, and what it looks like both stowed and inflated. This FOI is designed to give clear instructions on how to operate it and what survival equipment is contained within it. The life raft should be securely stowed next to the aircraft exit area.

2. Photos of Life Raft



Packed EAM T6



Retaining & Deployment Lines



Inflated with sea anchors & equipment bag



Water gathering Canopy

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Survival Equipment



Canopy

3. Life Raft Equipment List

The following equipment is stowed inside the life raft.

- 1 x canopy assembly
- 1 x radar reflector
- 1 x day/night flare kit
- 1 x repair kit
- 1 x bailer
- 1 x signal mirror
- 1 x whistle
- 1 x raft knife (attached to raft)
- 1 x hand held inflation pump
- 1 x 25 metre retaining line
- 1 x magnetic compass
- 1 x sea dye marker
- 1 x flash light
- 1 x fishing kit
- 2 x oars
- 2 x water desalting kit
- 6 x food ration
- 1 x first aid kit
- 1 x survival manual
- 3 x sea anchor
- 1 x water collection bag
- 2 x locator light & battery

Note: The life raft does **not** contain an emergency locator transmitter (ELT).

Brent Williams
Chief Pilot

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4. Inflation of the Life raft

One designated crewperson should be made responsible for exiting the aircraft and deploying the life raft. The life raft is inflated by pulling on the lanyard located under a flap secured by two push/pull clips which activates a firing device on a CO2 cylinder. The life raft has a canopy which can be erected as well as self activating external strobe lights. Inside the life raft you will find an orange bag attached to the floor which contains numerous items (see life raft equipment list).

Note: NEVER inflate the life raft inside the aircraft cabin.

5. Inflation Procedure

- Designated crewperson will exit the aircraft with the life raft being careful not to damage the life raft on sharp surfaces.
- Gather survivors together next to life raft and ensure well clear of aircraft and/or wreckage to avoid possible puncture of life raft on inflation.
- Attach the retaining line to a survivor.
- Inflate life raft by pulling on the lanyard located behind the push/pull clip flap ensuring lanyard line and the retaining line are held securely by survivors to avoid life raft possibly being blown away by wind or sea conditions.
- Once fully inflated survivors to grab hold of life lines on outside of raft.
- Remove shoes and sharp objects prior to boarding to avoid damage to raft
- First survivor boards raft while others remain holding onto life lines. Once first person is aboard they help other survivors aboard one at a time.
- Familiarise with survival equipment and follow immediate instructions.
- Use oars as required to keep raft away from aircraft and wreckage which may puncture raft.
- Erect canopy.
- Continue to follow life raft instructions.

Note: Upon complete inflation of the life raft a leaking sound may be heard for some time after inflation is complete. This is normal and is simply excess CO2 escaping through a relief valve.