FOR MODEL NUMBER MD6284

OWNER'S MANUAL

EP 38 HYDROSTATIC INFLATABLE PFD WITH HARNESS

DO NOT REMOVE PRIOR TO SALE

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ABOUT THIS PRODUCT

DESIGNED FOR ELITE PERFORMANCE

Race-tested by elite sailing racers in Sydney Hobart, your Mustang Survival MD6284 Inflatable Personal Flotation Device (PFD) has been designed for elite performance. Here are some of the features that set this product apart – and make it particularly well suited to the extreme conditions of elite racing:

- **Wearability**
  - Lighter, more pliable membrane material: Our trademarked Membrane Inflatable Technology™ (M.I.T™) reduces weight and increases flexibility
  - The low profile, lightweight chassis is cut for active use, allowing 360° motion for high output grinding and sail changes
- **Superior inflation**
  - Hydrostatic Inflator Technology (HIT™) inflates only upon immersion
  - Discreet manual pull-handle prevents snags
  - Break-out zippers stay shut in high winds and open easily for quick filling of your PFD
- **In-water performance**
  - Higher-than-normal buoyancy range: The 38 LBS or 169N buoyancy (minimum 33.7 LBS or 150N) will keep you floating safely in higher winds and larger waves.
  - Single lobe construction: Front piece is one continuous surface. This avoids the water channeling effect of traditional double lobe construction (split in the front), which can direct water straight into the wearer's face
  - Sailing-specific attachments: integrated deck safety harness with soft tie-in, lifting loop, storable crotch straps and spray hood, retro-reflective material, and whistle

WHAT IS AN INFLATABLE PFD?

While traditional PFDs are inherently buoyant, inflatable PFDs rely entirely on inflation for buoyancy. Uninflated, your PFD is a comfortable slim collar with side straps – offering maximum mobility with minimum bulk – and can be inflated at any time with a 33-gram CO_2 gas cylinder. You can inflate your PFD automatically by water immersion, manually by jerking a pull-handle, or orally by mouth. It is recommended that you familiarize yourself with your PFD as described in Instructions for use, (p. 8).

AIRLINE POLICY ON CARRIAGE OF INFLATABLE PFDS AND CO_2 CYLINDERS

Regulations may apply to the air transport of inflatable PFDs. Only with the approval of the aircraft operator may carbon dioxide cylinder(s) be transported in checked or carry-on baggage. Please consult airline operator policy. If your airline does not allow transport, you may consider shipping your PFD or its CO_2 cylinder separately to your destination or purchasing a re-arm kit once you arrive (check availability before you go).

COAST GUARD APPROVAL

APPROVAL CONDITIONS AND CARRIAGE REGULATIONS

This inflatable PFD is approved for recreational use by the U.S. Coast Guard. It has Type II performance but is approved as a Type V PFD (ONLY WHEN WORN) because it has a built-in sailing harness that can cause injury if not properly used, and is donned by being pulled over the head and arms.

A separate section titled Instructions for use of sailing harness (p. 27) discusses the use of, and standards associated with, the sailing harness. U.S. Coast Guard approval does not apply to the sailing harness because some of the risks associated with its use have not been evaluated.

When fully inflated, this inflatable PFD will provide Type II in-water performance. This PFD is not approved for water skiing or other high impact, high speed activities.

This inflatable PFD was designed to be more comfortable and less restrictive to wear than inherently buoyant PFDs. When worn, used, and serviced according to this owner's manual, this PFD can greatly increase your chances of survival in the water.

Not recommended for non-swimmers or weak swimmers. Users of inflatable PFDs must be at least 16 years old.

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 inflation tube.

This PFD must also be properly armed with:

- a full CO_2 cylinder
- inflation system status indicator, and
- an accessible manual inflation lanyard.

A PFD which is "approved only when worn" or "required to be worn" must be worn under the specified conditions.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR PFD

Because your PFD is designed to save your life, you need to be comfortable using it and thoroughly familiar with how it works.

If you just purchased or have not yet used your PFD, the U.S. Coast Guard recommends that you immediately test it as described in Testing your PFD, (p. 33). This will not only ensure your PFD is in good condition, it will give you experience using all three methods of inflation.

After initial testing, get in the habit of inspecting your PFD before each use, re-arming it after each use and, of course, wearing it every time you go out on the water. This section provides instructions, using terms from the diagram below.

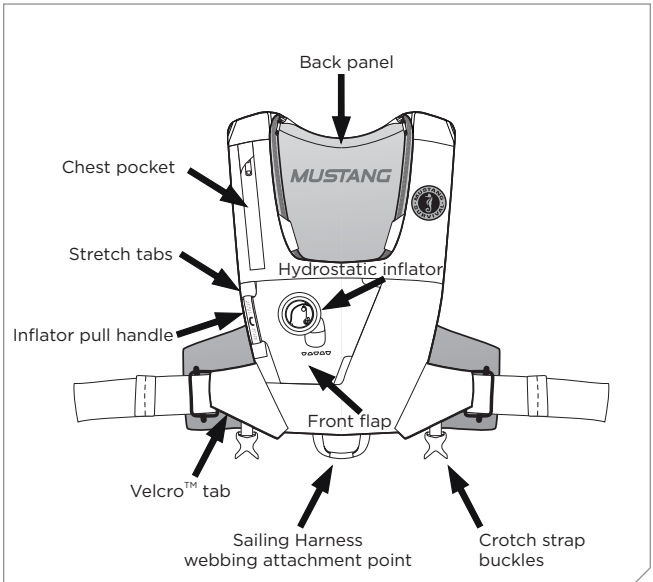


FIGURE 1

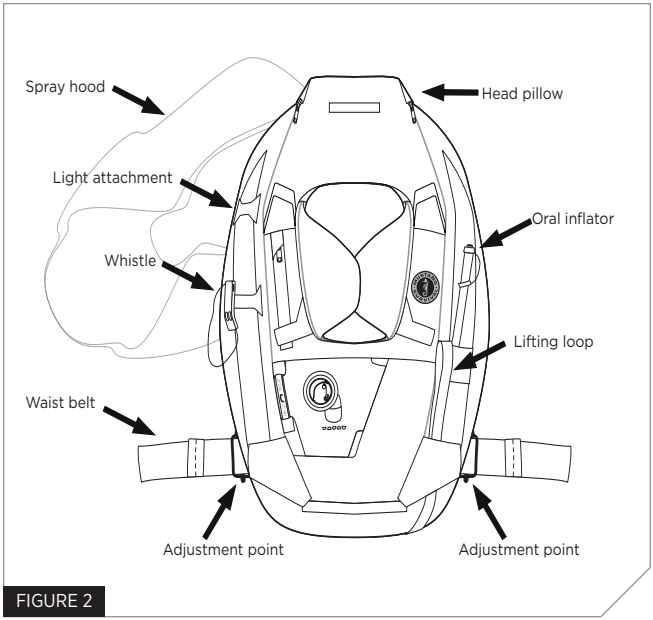

Spray hood
Head pillow
Light attachment
Oral inflator
Whistle
Lifting loop
Waist belt
Adjustment point
Adjustment point

FIGURE 2

INSPECTING COMPONENTS

Before each use, check your PFD for readiness – you must be able to answer 'yes' to these questions:

1. Is the status indicator green? Through the window panel on the front of your PFD, check the status indicator to ensure it is green (Fig. 3). If the indicator is red, the mechanism has been fired. Re-arm your PFD before proceeding (see Re-arming, p. 19).

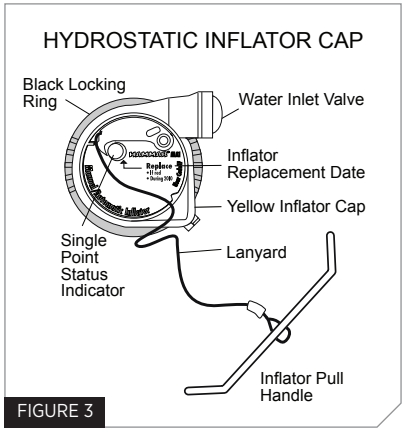


FIGURE 3

2. Is the date on the inflator cap still in the future? If the date on the inflator cap (Fig. 3) has already passed, replace the inflation equipment before proceeding (see Re-arming, p. 19).
3. Is the cap for the oral tube in place? Undo the Velcro™ tab on (wearer's) left side at bottom, to expose the zipper. Undo the zipper by placing a finger underneath the zipper and running it up (toward wearer's face). Unfold the material to expose the oral tube. Make sure the cap is in place, covering the oral tube (Fig. 4). Close the side up again by first re-folding the material; then close the zipper by zipping down to the zipper stop and then back up again.
4. Is the pull-handle for manual inflation visible? Look for the silver handle on (wearer's) right side. Each end of the handle must held by its stretch tab, and the front flap of the PFD must be tucked under the handle.

5. Are all zippers and panels closed and all straps in place? Correct any twisted straps; ensure that materials housed by Velcro™ panels are zipped in and panels secured.
6. Are materials still in good shape? Look closely at your PFD – for damage or excessive abrasion, wear, tear and/or any visible foreign matter, such as mildew or oil stains. Check that all seams are secure, and all straps and hardware are sound. If you see any signs of damage, perform the Every two months tests, described in Care and maintenance, (p. 29).

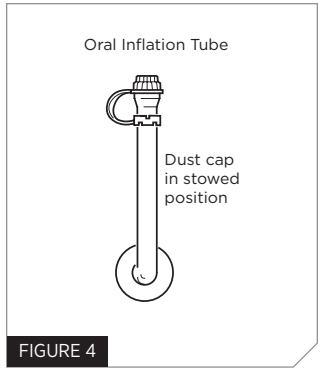


FIGURE 4

USING THIS PFD BELOW FREEZING

Below freezing temperatures, (0° C/ 32° F), a discharged cylinder may not fully inflate your PFD. So, once your cylinder has discharged (either by automatic or manual inflation), use oral inflation as your back-up system to reach full buoyancy (see Inflating/Orally, p. 16).

PUTTING IT ON (DONNING)

- Pull PFD over your head like a T-shirt, pushing your arms through the spaces created by the side straps (Fig. 5)
- To tighten: reach under your arms, grasp both side straps at once, and pull back
- The bottom of your PFD should rest above your lowest ribs by at least 2 inches (5 cm). This means your PFD only goes where your ribs can most effectively protect your internal organs against external pressures.
- Check fit by pinching each side strap, just as you would a waistband. If you can pinch the material together (Fig. 6), tighten your PFD.

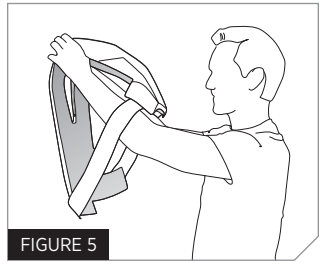


FIGURE 5

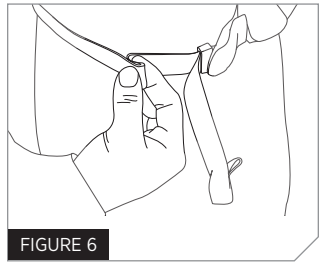


FIGURE 6

YOUR PFD MUST BE WORN...

Deflated: For the comfort that encourages use, and especially:

- to protect the inner inflating bladder until it's needed
- to set up the crucial pressure difference needed to ensure automatic inflation.

Outside all clothing: Allows complete inflation – without damage to your gear or to your person. Your PFD must be your very last layer.

Without constraints: Do not tie or sew anything to the outside of (or around) your PFD, as it may compromise your PFD's ability to inflate.

If you fail to meet any one of these conditions, you may cause damage to yourself or your PFD.

USING CROTCH STRAPS

Add these steps to wear crotch straps.

- **Before donning PFD:** flip PFD face down, find Velcro™ tab labeled “STRAPS” across bottom back, pull open the Velcro™ compartment and release two long straps.
- **After donning PFD:** reach back between legs for the straps and buckle into bottom front of PFD (Fig. 7). Tighten by pulling down evenly on straps until the length is correct for your body while standing.

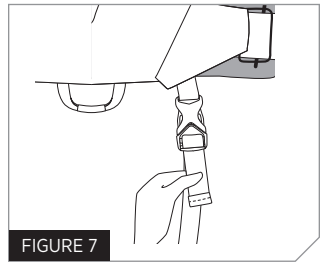


FIGURE 7

NOTE: TOWARDS THE BACK OF THE CROTCH STRAPS, NEAR THE VELCRO™ COMPARTMENT, THERE ARE THREE ROWS OF STITCHING ON EACH STRAP. IF ONE OF THESE ROWS HAS BEEN BROKEN THE PFD HAS EXPERIENCED AN IMPACT WHILE IN USE AND SHOULD BE REPLACED.

USING LIFTING LOOP

The lifting loop is attached at bottom front of your PFD and fixed by Velcro™ inside the left zippered portion of your PFD (same side as oral tube).

- Once PFD has inflated, loop will be on your left, by the oral tube
- Pull loop away from Velcro™ tab, and lift from bottom front of PFD

USING SPRAY HOOD

- Once PFD has inflated, reach behind and above your head (under the head pillow of the PFD) to grip spray hood and pull it from its compartment.
- Pull fabric down and around the edges of your inflated PFD (Fig. 8). (The hood ventilates from the window material at the sides of your face)

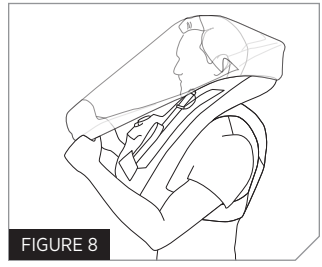


FIGURE 8

TAKING IT OFF (DOFFING)

- To make doffing easier, partially deflate the PFD while still wearing (See Deflating, p. 19)
- Simultaneously loosen both side straps by moving the metal sliders forward
- Once you have enough slack in your side straps, shrug arms out and pull PFD off over your head

REMOVING CROTCH STRAPS

- Flip PFD face down, find Velcro™ tab across bottom back, pull open the compartment and release two long straps (If straps have been out and worn, they will already be outside of their compartment; make sure they are also unbuckled from the bottom front buckles of the PFD)
- Find and pull out the loop within the compartment
- From the top of that loop, pull crotch straps up and out
- Now pull straps and the loop itself out of the waist webbing
- Re-secure the Velcro™ tab across the compartment

DOUBLE INFLATION CAN BE DANGEROUS

What it is: When an already orally inflated PFD then manually or automatically inflates. This creates excessively high pressure within the inflation chamber.

Your PFD is designed to tolerate double inflation – but if extreme, this pressure can damage your PFD and be extremely uncomfortable and potentially harmful to you while wearing.

What to do: Use the oral tube to quickly release pressure from your PFD (flip over the cap and press it down within the oral tube. This opens the valve).

INFLATING

Your PFD inflates in three ways: automatically, manually, or orally. No matter how your PFD inflates, it can always be topped up orally – extending its ability to keep you afloat.

The inflation instructions below use 'left' and 'right' assuming you are wearing the PFD during inflation – so your left or right is also the PFD's.

AUTOMATICALLY

- You fall or jump into the water.
    - If the inflator on your PFD is immersed in 4 or more inches of water, the resulting pressure triggers a reaction that pierces the armed gas cylinder. The cylinder then releases CO_2 gas to inflate your PFD – normally within 5 seconds.

Because your PFD's sensor responds only to water pressure (rather than just wetness), your PFD is designed to inflate when you are in the water – and to avoid unintentional inflation in wet conditions.

MANUALLY

- You trigger inflation by jerking the silver handle on the right side of your PFD.
    - Grab the handle with your right hand (thumb up) and pull (Fig. 9). The motion will be a short arc forward and to your right. Your PFD inflates within 5 seconds.

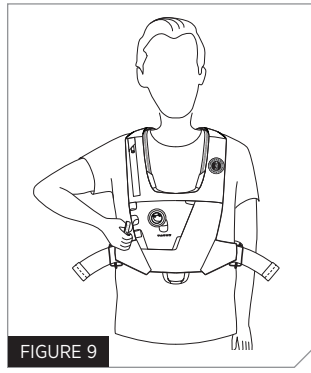


FIGURE 9

CO_2 ESCAPES THROUGH THE MATERIAL OVER TIME

Automatic or manual inflation uses carbon dioxide (CO_2 gas) to fill your PFD. Over time, the CO_2 gas will slowly escape through the fabric, and you may feel that the PFD is losing pressure. If you're in the water for a prolonged period, you may need to top up your PFD using oral inflation

ORALLY

- You pull open the left side of your PFD to locate the oral tube and blow air into your PFD (Fig. 10).
    - On the bottom left of your PFD, open the Velcro™ tab to reveal the zipper
    - Place a finger underneath the zipper stop and pull zipper open by running your finger up the zipper (toward your face)
    - You can then fold out the fabric to reveal the oral tube (which sits about shoulder level)
    - Flip off the cap and blow air into the tube
    - As you blow into the tube, you can make inflation easier by opening the right side of your PFD and pulling the right zipper open (just as you did the left)
    - Inflate until PFD is firm across chest, shoulders, and back of the neck/head.

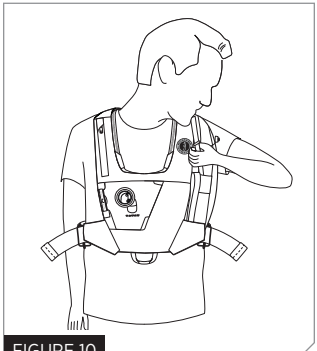


FIGURE 10

CAP ON ORAL TUBE IS TO HOLD DIRT OUT – NOT KEEP AIR IN

The oral tube has a one-way valve opened by air pressure, which means the cap is designed to keep dirt and debris out of the tube and valve, not to hold in pressure. (When you flip the cap over and press it into the tube, however, it will let out pressure for deflation.)

So while it is good practice to keep the cap on the tube, it is not necessary for maintaining your PFD's pressure.

DEFLATING

Complete deflation is easiest when you are not wearing the PFD; however, it is much easier to take off the PFD if you at least partially deflate it while wearing.

WHILE WEARING

- Locate oral tube and remove its cap
- Turn cap over, using pointed end to press into the valve. This creates the outlet for gas release
- Continuing to press cap end (which keeps your outlet open), use the palm of your other hand to gently flatten the material against your shoulders and chest, which moves pressure toward the outlet

WHILE NOT WEARING

- Place PFD face up on a flat surface free of clutter
- Locate oral tube and remove its cap
- Turn cap over, using pointed end to press into valve. This creates the outlet for pressure release (Fig. 11)
- Continuing to press cap end (which keeps your outlet open), use other hand and forearms to gently flatten the PFD as much as you can – always moving toward your outlet (Fig. 12).

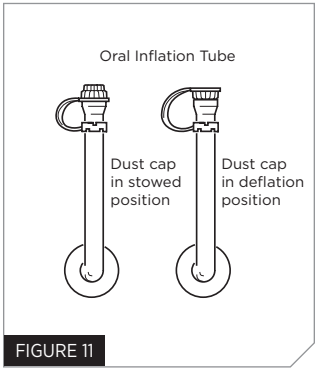


FIGURE 11

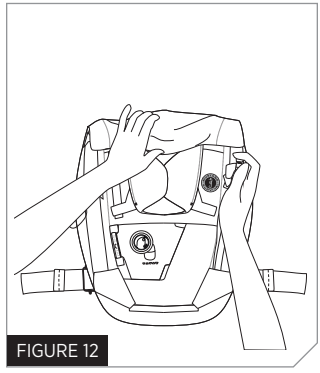


FIGURE 12

- To further flatten, let go of the outlet so you can use both hands to roll the material. You will be creating areas of high pressure and then releasing that pressure through the outlet:
    - Roll material tightly from top of PFD to create a high pressure area in the bottom.
    - Holding your roll in place (usually easiest with your forearm), open your outlet again (press cap end into valve) to release pressure.
    - Now roll material from the bottom in the same way, creating a high pressure area in the top end of your PFD. Holding roll in place, again open your outlet to release remaining pressure.

RE-ARMING

To re-arm your PFD, you will first remove the old inflation equipment. You will then put in new inflation equipment from **Mustang Survival's Re-Arm Kit MA5283**. **The re-arm kit includes:**

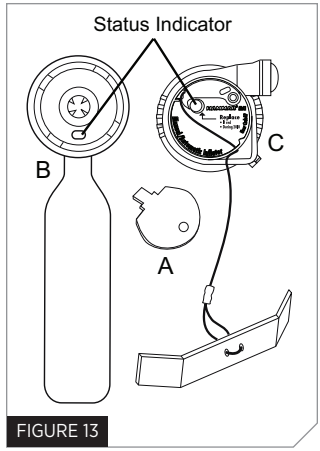


FIGURE 13

- Inflator removal key (A)
- Inflator body and cylinder (B). The "inflator body" refers to the black circular disc attached to the CO_2 cylinder. The inflator body has an indicator, which must show green for re-arming
- Inflator cap and pull-handle (C) (Fig. 13). The "inflator cap" refers to the yellow piece and its black locking ring together. The inflator cap has an indicator as well as an expiration date. For re-arming, the indicator must show green and the expiration date must be in the future.

REMOVING OLD INFLATION EQUIPMENT

1. Place your PFD on a flat surface so that the inflation equipment is facing up (through the clear window with the molded cap) and wipe off any water
2. Pull apart Velcro™ tabs on the front flap of the PFD and open the flap to expose the inflation equipment
3. Insert your inflator removal key between the inflator cap's yellow piece and its black locking ring – at the spot that looks like the point of a triangle (Fig. 14)
4. Turn the key counter clockwise (if you're right handed, this is toward you). As you turn, you are creating a wedge to open up space between yellow and black – the black locking ring will turn left, opposite the yellow piece (Fig. 15).
5. Once you have enough space between yellow and black, put the key aside and grip the black locking ring directly. Continue to turn the black locking ring counter-clockwise – opposite the yellow piece (Fig. 16).

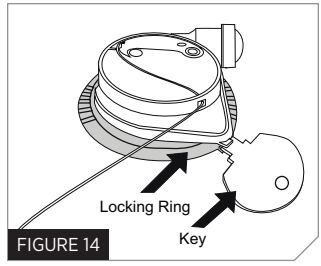


FIGURE 14

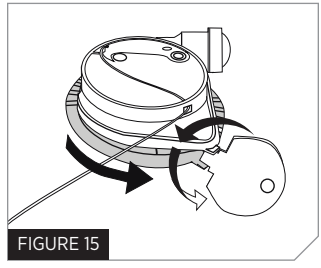


FIGURE 15

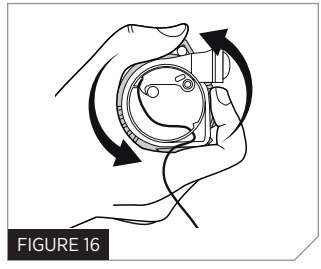


FIGURE 16

6. Once you can no longer turn the black locking ring, you will be able to pull the entire inflator cap (yellow piece and black locking ring together) off the PFD (Fig. 17). Discard this used inflator cap. (Through the clear O-ring, you will now see the used inflator body – which looks like a black circular disc – attached to your used gas cylinder.)

7. Squeeze the clear O-ring to elongate it – until it looks more like an oval. This will give you enough room to pull the inflator body and cylinder out of your PFD.

8. Gripping the inflator body, pull it and the cylinder out through the clear O-ring in the PFD. (Fig. 18). Discard the used inflator body and cylinder (Fig. 19).

PUTTING IN NEW INFLATION EQUIPMENT

9. Get the new inflator body and cylinder from the re-arm kit. (This is the black circular disc and the cylinder attached to it).

10. Make sure the indicator on the inflator body is green. (If indicator is not green, you will need a new inflator body and cylinder before you can re-arm.)

11. Gripping the inflator body, insert the cylinder through the clear O-ring – aligning it with the screen print on the covering material (Fig. 20). (The inflator body will remain visible.)

12. Line up the clear O-ring on the grooves of the inflator body so that O-ring and inflator body are in even contact all the way around.

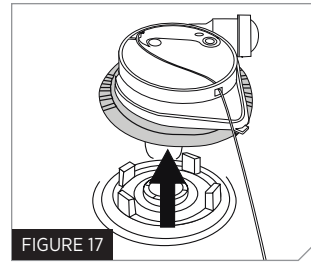


FIGURE 17

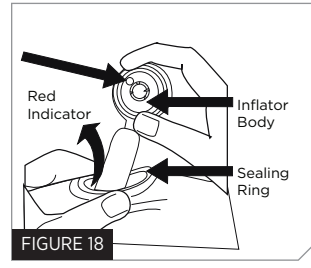


FIGURE 18

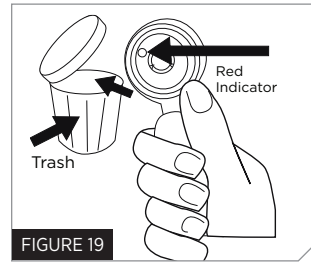


FIGURE 19

13. Get new (black and yellow) inflator cap from re-arm kit and check its face for:
    - a green indicator
    - a valid expiration date
    - If indicator is not green or the expiry date has already passed, you will need a new inflator cap before you can re-arm.

14. Hold the cylinder in place to keep the inflator body from moving; press (yellow and black) inflator cap onto the inflator body, with the inflator cap's water inlet valve (looks like a small yellow tube) at a 90 degree angle to the cylinder – as long as your cylinder matches the screen print! (Fig. 21, and Fig. 22)
15. (If you were wearing the PFD, the water inlet valve of the inflator cap would point toward your feet, and – once you finish re-arming –should fit snugly under the molded rubber cover.)
16. Press down firmly on the yellow piece of the inflator cap, and grip the black locking ring underneath.
17. Tighten the black locking ring by turning it clockwise to the right, behind the yellow cap until it clicks (Fig. 23).
18. Tug on the inflator cap to make sure it's firmly connected to the inflator body and cylinder.
19. Gently tuck each end of the (silver) pull-handle – which is attached to the inflator cap by a lanyard – into the stretch tabs next to the inflator cap, taking care not to pull the lanyard and unintentionally inflate your PFD.
20. Tuck in the tabs of the front flap (on three sides)
21. Close front flap over the inflation equipment (with window and molded rubber cover fitted in place) and press the Velcro™ strips together (Fig. 24).
22. Ensure you have successfully re-armed by performing a leak test (see Care and Maintenance/Every two months, p. 29)

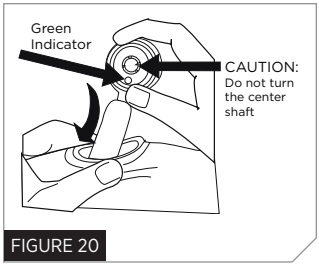


FIGURE 20

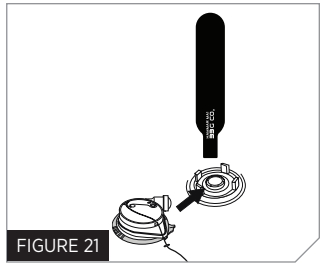
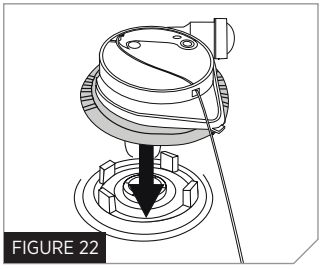


FIGURE 21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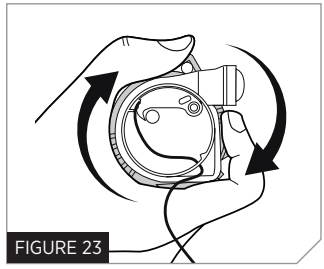
FIGURE 23

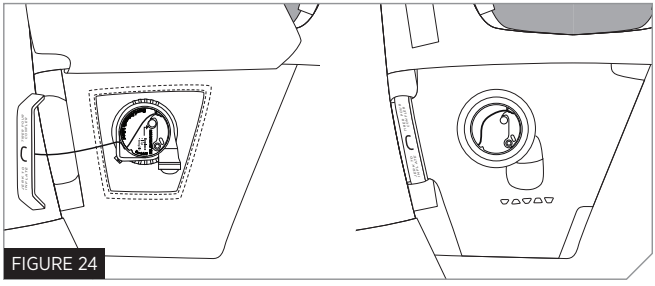
FIGURE 24

REPACKING

Repacking should only be done after re-arming and completely deflating PFD (see Re-arming, p. 19, and Deflating, p. 17).

1. First pack any accessory devices such as crotch straps, lifting loop, spray hood. See below instructions in this section
2. At chin level of the PFD, tuck in material on each side of chin (Fig. 25)
3. Zip each chin side closed, by running each zipper all the way down to the zipper stop and then back up (Fig. 26 and Fig. 27)
4. Tuck the tabs over each zipper stop into the slots on the inside of the PFD (where the PFD would rest against your chest) (Fig. 28)
5. Fold in the bottom pleat (or gusset), making sure to align Velcro™ strips and close (Fig. 29).
6. Fold in the sides, making sure to tuck in reflective material and oral tube on (wearer's) left side and whistle on the right side (Fig. 30)
7. Zip each side closed, by running each zipper all the way down to the zipper stop and then back up (Fig. 31 – Fig. 33)
8. Close Velcro™ tabs over each zipper stop. This will prevent unintended break-out of the zippers (Fig. 33)

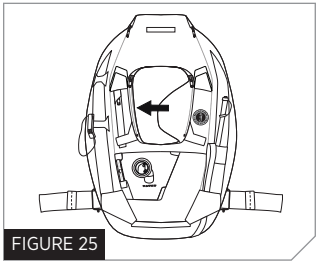
FIGURE 25

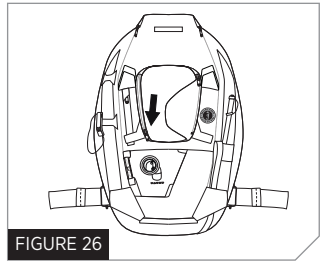
FIGURE 26

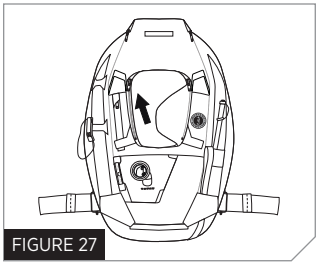
FIGURE 27

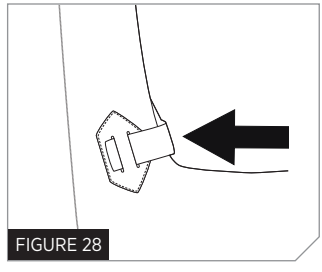
FIGURE 28

9. Ensure pull handle ends are secured into the stretch tabs (Fig. 34)
10. Take the head pillow (the part that supports your head/neck when inflated) and tuck into back of the PFD, closing Velcro™ compartment (Fig. 35)

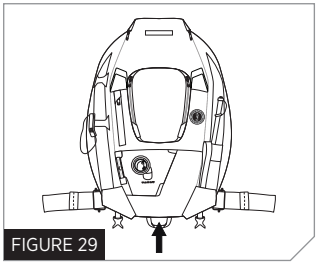
FIGURE 29

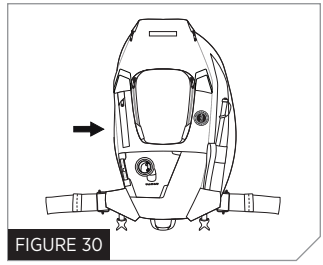
FIGURE 30

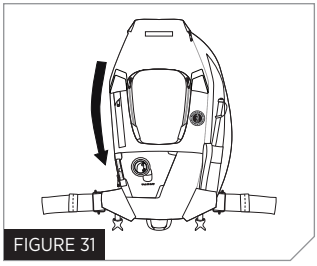
FIGURE 31

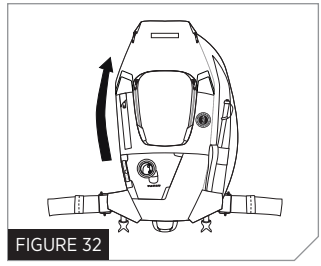
FIGURE 32

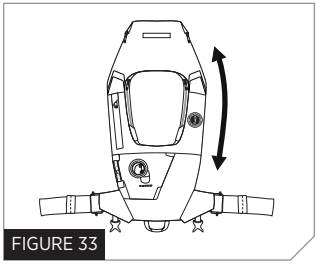
FIGURE 33

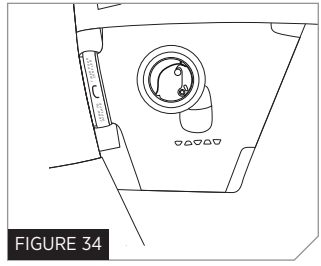
FIGURE 34

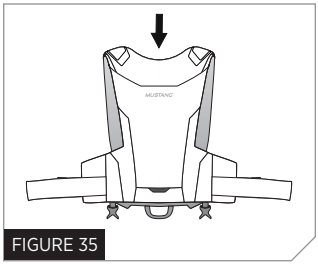
FIGURE 35

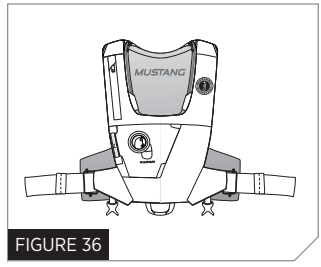

FIGURE 36

CROTCH STRAPS

To pack crotch straps, fold webbing and buckles into small bundle, pull open the Velcro™ compartment (at bottom back of PFD when face down), tuck inside, and firmly re-attach the Velcro™.

LIFTING LOOP

To pack the lifting loop, place deflated PFD face up, with the zipper compartments open. Find the pleat (or gusset) across bottom of PFD; tuck loop inside and along this pleat, bringing it up the right side (the wearer's left side) to attach just in front of the oral tube. The loop will then be hidden when you zip the sides closed.

SPRAY HOOD

To pack the spray hood, place the PFD face down with hood spread out on top. Fold the hood toward where it's sewn to the PFD. When you get to this seam, fold in the hood's sides to match the seam's length. Tuck your folded bundle into the PFD's back compartment, and secure the Velcro™ strip (Fig. 37).

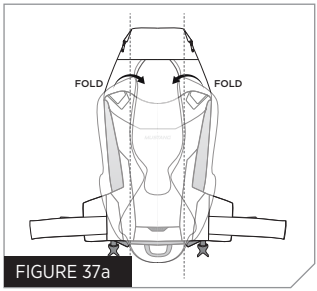

FIGURE 37a

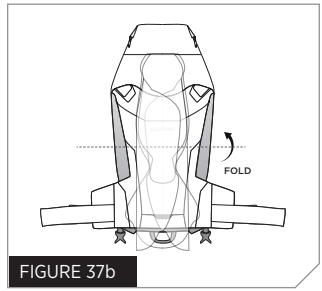

FIGURE 37b

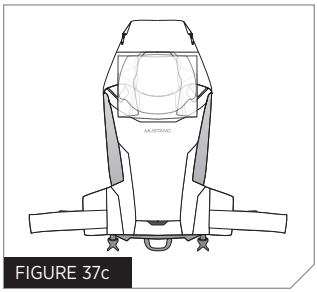
FIGURE 37c

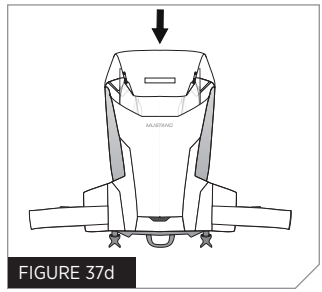
FIGURE 37d

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF SAILING HARNESS

This PFD has a sailing harness, designed and tested in accordance with ISO 12401 requirements.

The harness:

- Is intended to prevent you from falling overboard – it does not protect you against falls from a height
- Must use a tether with an quick-release under-load hardware
- Must have an attachment point able to withstand forces of more than 1 metric ton (1,000 kg or 2,204 LBS)
- Is to be inspected and cleaned according to Care and maintenance, (p. 29)
- Is unsafe to wear loose

SIZING AND ADJUSTMENT

The harness is designed to be worn:

- As high on the chest as possible, but in all cases, should rest above your lowest ribs by at least 2 inches (5 cm).

This ensures your ribs can most effectively protect your internal organs against external pressures. Since your harness is built into your PFD, appropriately fitting your PFD will also ensure the harness is worn properly. Simply follow the instructions in Putting it on (donning), p. 12 to ensure proper PFD fit. If the PFD (and therefore its harness) does not fit properly, do not use.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF SAILING HARNESS (CONT'D)

ATTACHING TO TETHER

- When you're attached to the boat, use a tether of less than 6 feet, 6 inches (2 m) in length with quick-release under-load hardware (Fig. 38)
- Clip tether into the webbing attachment point at bottom front of the PFD
- Tug on tether to ensure it is securely attached to the PFD

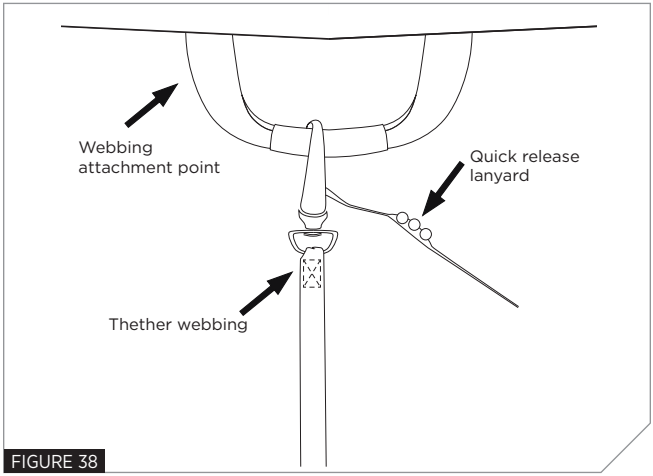

FIGURE 38

SAILING HARNESS WARNING

Using a sailing harness to prevent falls overboard presents several risks. In case of capsizing or sinking, the boat may take you down. As such, use only a proper tether with proper attachment point (described on previous page).

This harness has not been designed for fall arrest, lifting, or climbing and should not be relied upon in any of these instances.

Design and testing of this harness is governed by ISO12401 standards – which are separate from U.S. Coast Guard approval of the PFD.

IS YOUR PFD IN GOOD AND SERVICEABLE CONDITION?

Check your PFD between outings to be sure that:

- it is properly armed
- it is free of rips, tears or holesall seams are securely sewn; and
- the fabric, straps and hardware are still strong.

Inspect the inflatable portion of the PFD in accordance with Care and maintenance, (p. 29).

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

To ensure your PFD performs when you need it, you must care for and maintain it in serviceable condition (see "Mandatory carriage requirements," p. 7). Failure to follow these instructions rigorously could result in a non-functioning PFD causing injury or death. We suggest you keep a record of the inspections performed on your PFD – using permanent ink on the Care and Storage label behind the head pillow of your PFD. If you are not confident that you can care for and maintain your PFD in accordance with these instructions, contact Mustang Survival customer service.

You are required to check this PFD:

- Before each wear (component inspection)
- Every two months (leak test, oral inflation valve test, and thorough visual examination)
- After each inflation (perform re-arm)
- Annually (suggested at beginning of each boating season)

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Check the following at the intervals listed below. If in doubt, contact Mustang Survival customer service.

BEFORE EACH WEAR:

See Inspecting Components, (p. 10) for instructions. If you see any signs of damage, perform the Every two months tests below.

EVERY TWO MONTHS

The following three tests are suggested every two months or whenever you see signs of damage to your PFD. Perform these tests more often if the PFD is exposed to potential damage or used in extreme conditions.

LEAK TEST:

Orally inflate your PFD until firm and let stand 16 hours. As long as your PFD has been inflated orally (not by CO_2 cylinder) it should hold its firmness for this length of time. If this is not the case, your PFD is leaking and should be replaced. If your Inflatable PFD leaks, contact Mustang Survival customer service. Deflate and repack the PFD as outlined in Repacking (p. 24).

ORAL INFLATION VALVE TEST:

Fully inflate the PFD using the oral inflator and hold valve under water. To avoid accidental inflation, don't allow the water to contact the hydrostatic inflator. If bubbles appear, deflate and re-inflate to test again. Should the leak persist, contact Mustang Survival customer service.

THOROUGH VISUAL EXAMINATION:

See Inspecting Components (p. 10).

AFTER EACH INFLATION

Deflate and re-arm, as described in Re-arming (p. 19).

ANNUALLY

Perform the following at the beginning of each boating season, after inflation, or whenever the integrity of the PFD is in doubt:

1. Check all components for dirt or corrosion. Clean or replace, as necessary. See Inspecting components (p. 10).
2. Visually examine your PFD for damage or excessive abrasion, wear, tear, or contamination. Particular attention must be paid to the stitching, straps and hardware. If in doubt, contact Mustang Survival customer service for evaluation and/or servicing.
3. Perform the Leak test as described in Every two months care and maintenance instructions (p. 29).
4. Perform the Oral inflation valve test as described in Every two months care and maintenance instructions (above).
5. Ensure the date on the inflator has not already passed. If it has, replace the inflator. See Re-arming (p. 19).

6. Ensure the single point status indicator is green (Fig. 38).
7. Record as an "Annual" inspection in permanent ink on the Care and Storage label behind the head pillow. Deflate and repack the PFD as outlined in Repacking (p. 24).

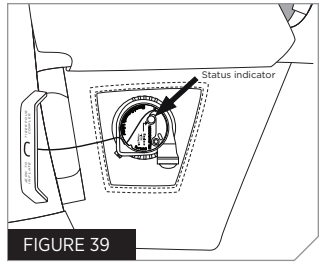

FIGURE 39

CLEANING AND STORING

To clean your PFD, always take care not to submerge the inflation equipment as you:

- Hand wash PFD or sponge it down in warm, soapy water
- Rinse with clean water
- Hang to dry on a plastic coat hanger
- Store the dry PFD in a warm, dry, and well ventilated place out of direct sunlight.

Do not dry-clean, use chlorine bleach, or apply direct heat.

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 to 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. Since this inflatable PFD does not have inherent buoyancy, it provides flotation only when inflated.

Familiarize yourself with the use of this PFD so you know what to do in an emergency.

HOW AND WHY TO TEST YOUR PFD

Your PFD comes pre-armed with a CO_2 cylinder. The U.S. Coast Guard recommends that you also purchase two re-arm kits. One to be used immediately in testing (see Testing your PFD, below) and the other to re-arm your PFD after testing – making it ready for use. You may also want to carry one onboard as a spare.

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 Care and maintenance, p. 29, for leak tests)
  - It should inflate quickly and easily
- **Learn how it works by:**
  - Activating the CO_2 inflation system
  - Rearming the CO_2 inflation system
  - Using the oral inflation tube

WHY TEST

You will test your PFD at regular intervals because it is intended to save your life. In order to save your life, it must be in good working condition as described in Mandatory carriage requirements (p. 7).

For an additional overview of good PFD practice and of the dangers your PFD is designed to protect you against, review the section Each of these devices is intended to help you save your own life p. 36).

TESTING YOUR PFD

HOW TO TEST YOUR PFD USING THE AUTOMATIC INFLATOR

1. To test your inflatable PFD using automatic inflation, you will need your fully armed PFD, and the re-arm kit approved for your PFD.
2. Put on your PFD.
3. Get into shallow water, just deep enough that you can stand with your head above the surface. Once the inflator is under water your PFD should automatically fully inflate within 10 seconds.
4. See if your 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.
5. Get out of the water and remove your PFD. Deflate the PFD using the oral inflator (p. 16).
6. Let your PFD dry thoroughly, Re-arm (p. 19), and Repack (p. 24) your PFD.

HOW TO TEST YOUR PFD USING THE MANUAL INFLATOR

1. To test your inflatable PFD using manual inflation, you will need your fully armed PFD, and the re-arm kit approved for your PFD.
2. Put on your PFD.
3. Actuate the inflation system by jerking firmly on the pull handle. Your PFD should fully inflate within 5 seconds.
4. Get into shallow water, just deep enough that you can stand with your head above the surface.
5. See if your 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.
6. Get out of the water and remove your PFD. Completely deflate the PFD using the oral inflator (p. 17).
7. Let the PFD dry thoroughly, Re-arm (p. 19), and Repack (p. 24) the PFD.

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.

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:

HOW HYPOTHERMIA AFFECTS MOST ADULTS

Water Temperature °C (°F)	Exhaustion or Unconsciousness	Expected Time of Survival
0.3 (32.5)	Under 15 min.	Under 15–45 min.
0.3–4 (32.5–40)	15–30 min.	30–90 min.
4–10 (40–50)	30–60 min.	1–3 hrs
10–16 (50–60)	1–2 hrs.	1–6 hrs.
16–21 (60–70)	2–7 hrs.	2–40 hrs.
21–27 (70–80)	2–12 hrs.	3 hrs. to Indefinite
over 27 (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. Use the standard HELP position when wearing an inflatable PFD, drawing the legs up to a seated position, because doing so will help you conserve body heat (Fig. 40).
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.

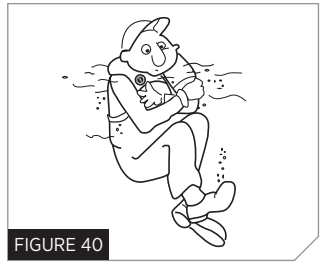
FIGURE 40

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 inflation mechanism status indicators before each use.
2. Get in the habit of rearming the inflation mechanism right after each inflation.
3. Try your wearable PFD on and adjust it until it fits comfortably in and out of the water.
4. Mark your PFD with your name if you are the only wearer. NOTE: this can be done using permanent marker on the Care and Storage label behind the head pillow.
5. Do not alter your PFD. If it doesn't fit properly, get one that does. An altered device is no longer Coast Guard approved.
6. Your PFD is not intended for use as a fender or kneeling pad.
7. If your PFD is wet, allow it to dry thoroughly before storing it. Store it in a well ventilated area.
8. Do not dry your PFD in front of a radiator or other source of direct heat.

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; or call the free boating course number 1-800-336-BOAT (in VA, 1-800-245-BOAT).

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 D-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 perform as intended.

EXCEPTION: YOUR PFD HAS A BUILT-IN SAILING HARNESS (WITH WEBBING ATTACHMENT POINT AT BOTTOM FRONT) INTENDED FOR ATTACHING TO BOATS USING A QUICK-RELEASE UNDER-LOAD TETHER. SEE INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF SAILING HARNESS (P. 27). DO NOT ATTACH THE PFD TO BOATS USING ANY OTHER MEANS.

MUSTANG ENGINEERED

For 50 years Mustang Survival has been engineering high-performance marine gear for military, coast guard, and rescue personnel. With a focus on applied research and field-testing, we're committed to the protection and enhancement of those who push themselves to extremes. We build gear that saves lives and fuels exploration.

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