

Nookie River Rescue Throwlines

Nookie Throwlines

Our throwlines consist of two elements; a line of rope incorporated in a throw bag. The elements have been specifically designed for river rescue. The throwlines are available in lengths of 7, 15, 20, and 25 metres line length.

Main Purpose Of A Nookie Throwline

To get a line to an individual who is in the water in order to help that person reach safety. To ensure the safety of rescuers and to assist in equipment recovery.

Properties Of The Nookie Line

The line must float to prevent snagging under the surface and allow easier, safer handling of the rope in water. The line also must have a soft grip to the hands. The Nookie line is made of braided polypropylene, which achieves high floatation. The line is also made of two high visibility colours so it is easy to see in swiftwater and possible to distinguish from other ropes in use.

The braided line has the benefit of scrunching down into a small area so the whole bag takes up the minimum of space in your rescue kit.

The best line length is about 20 metres for ease of throwing. A 25-metre bag is the maximum most people can throw efficiently, but the extra length can be useful for equipment recovery.

Clean Line Policy

All UK rescue-training courses advise the use of a clean line. This means the end of the line the thrower holds onto must be clean, that is with no knots or loops or handles. The reason is to minimise the risk of the line snagging if you have to release the line during a rescue.

The Line

- Polypropylene braided static rope.
- Standard line: 10mm diameter. (Pre nov 2005: 8mm nominal thickness. Flattens to 10mm under load.)
- Professional 20m line : 10.5mm diameter.
- High visibility twin colours.
- Floating rope.

Nookie Throwbag

Shape and Construction

The bags are nicknamed “bullet bags” because of their deployment accuracy. The bags have optimised aspect ratio and structural stability and internal finish to achieve the ideal relationship between the rate the rope comes out of the bag during flight, and the amount that stays in so that the momentum overcomes wind resistance; simply it goes through the air like a bullet!

The stiff foam wall of the bag allows a second throw if the line is coiled and the bag filled with water.

The Bag

- Nylon internal shell makes a smooth wall for fast exit of line.
- Built-in foam wall to provide structural integrity and floatation to the bag.
- Cordura outer shell for protection and wear resistance.
- High visibility colours and light reflective elements
- Easy to use closures on the bag.
- Additional accessory: Rescue Utility belt allows the bag to be worn on the waist or secured to a tender or boat. The quick access tab releases with one hand.

Care and Maintenance of Nookie Throwlines

- Polypropylene rope has a relatively low melting point. Care should be observed if used in conjunction with friction devices.
- To avoid abrasion damage to the rope, always rinse and clean after use and avoid standing on the rope at any time. Any grit that is pressed in to the rope will cause abrasion damage to the centre of the rope when it is put under load.

- Always rinse the throwline after use in salt water with fresh water and dry. This will stop corrosion to the press-studs and also salt crystals building up and causing abrasion. Drying is important to avoid mildew.
- Inspect the line by running it through your hands to feel any inconsistencies and visually check for signs of damage.
- If you are in doubt of the lines integrity then retire it – see “Throwline Shelf Life” below.
- Always dry and store the product out of direct sunlight because ultra violet light will damage the line. Store the line coiled and out of the bag, then whoever uses it next will know it has been packed correctly.
- Avoid contact with petroleum products; the line can be damaged from the inside.
- For identification, write your name or an item code on the throwbag in permanent ink.

Throwline “Shelf Life”

There is no official shelf life stated for the Nookie throwline. If stored properly it should not degrade. If you are concerned about the integrity of the throwline then we will offer an inspection service for a nominal cost. We will issue a report with a recommendation to either continue with it or retire it. We ask that all throwlines be sent to us dry and individually tagged for identification.

Safe use

As with all safety equipment proper instruction and training should be sort on how to use the equipment effectively and safely and to highlight any potential dangers. It is also important to practise using your throwline so that you are prepared and skilled in using it when a situation arises.

Here are some tips on using throwlines for river rescues.

- Hold the bag in your throwing hand. Unfasten the closure at the neck, and pull out several metres of rope with your other hand (this is so that you have some rope to play with should you need it).
- Throw the bag in whatever way you find best, we suggest you grip the neck of the bag and use an aggressive over arm throw. Aim to land the bag just beyond and downstream of the swimmer, so that the current takes the swimmer within reach of the line.
- Brace yourself so you aren't pulled in, and draw the victim to safety in a pendulum action. You must practise this under controlled conditions. A lot can go wrong if you aren't proficient at throwline rescues.
- If you miss on your first attempt, retrieve the bag quickly, coil the rope, and fill the bag with water. Before the water drains out, throw the bag (this time with an under arm throw).
- When the victim is safe, repack the bag immediately. Gather a few metres at a time and zigzag them into a compact bundle. Pack this into the bag, and repeat until it is full.