

DIRAUX has provided SAR Vests to active coxswains of Division 10. They are being distributed during the first week of August by your Operations Officer. A principal purpose of the SAR Vest is to provide a way to attach your PEPIRB to the patch on the Vest's left shoulder so that the PEPIRB's antenna would generally be out of the water in the event you go overboard and activate the EPIRB. For a discussion of the subject and related links, please go to <http://www.seapath.com/faq/> and scroll down to CWO David Lukasik's discussion.

Secure the PEPIRB to the Vest. You will attach a 2"x2" square of hook and loop tape (Velcro is a brand name) There are two sides to the tape, so be sure to attach the correct side in order to mate with the patch sewn on the Vest.

Velcro-brand "Industrial Strength" "Heavy Duty Adhesive" tape with a self-adhesive backing tape was used to secure the Velcro patch to the back of the PEPIRB. Place the Velcro patch so that it does not obscure the battery expiration date. For testing, the self-adhesive patch was placed on the back of the PEPIRB and then allowed to cure for the 24 hours recommended by the manufacturer's instructions. Then, the battery cover and self-adhesive patch was soaked for 4 hours in salt water and was then firmly attached and quickly removed 10 times from the Vest's shoulder patch. The PEPIRB remained secure on the Vest and the self-adhesive patch was secure on the battery cover for all 10 cycles.



Over/Under: The Vest is to be worn *UNDER* an inflatable PFD and worn *OVER* a standard PFD.

Standard PPE Item Placement:



There are ample pockets for your items of PPE. There is a long slender pocket on the left chest of the Vest for a Survival Knife. The PEPIRB is carried in the lower pocket on the right front. Attach all the PPE items with a *Type I nylon cord* lanyard, 36" long. There is a loop in each pocket for the lanyard.

Mirror and Whistle, Strobe/PML, and Pyro (Flares) are carried as shown at left.

(CHANGE: the PEPIRB is now shown in the LEFT pouch and Mirror in right-side pouch)

Buddy Lanyard (below):

In the right-side lower pocket is a 2' strap with a plastic "toggle" on a loop at one end and a stainless "D" ring on the other end. The "D" ring is for a dead-man's (kill switch) and the strap is a "buddy" strap. If you are in the water, use this strap to connect yourself to another person in the water. If the other person is wearing the same Vest, one "toggle" passes through the strap of the other person, as shown here.



Accounting: These SAR Vests are accountable items. Each coxswain receiving a Vest should complete the DD Form 1149 *Requisition and Invoice/Shipping Document*. Go to <http://www.seapath.com/faq/> and look for a link to a blank DD 1149 that your FSO-OP can use to record receipt by each coxswain.