

1948 H-5D Helicopter Lake Hood Alaska. Note that the helo then towed the raft



Not recommended for amateur rescuers, this is the off-shore water rescue technique developed by Alaska's Tenth Rescue Squadron. In this practice session at Lake Hood, a life raft was inflated as it dropped from the helicopter. A rescue specialist descends a rope ladder into the inflated raft to assist the survivor from the water into the raft. (This move is standard procedure because the survivor is usually unable to help himself after exposure to the low temperature of Alaskan waters.) The helicopter then tows the raft to the shore. (Air Force photo)