



MEDIA RELEASE

31st May, 2011

SOS Dan Buoy-Easier safety at sea

STORING safety equipment aboard small boats can be a nightmare. While no-one would go to sea without lifejackets or flares, finding somewhere to store everything now required by law is very difficult.

While inflatable lifejackets have eased some of the pain, fitting a Dan Buoy -- arguably the most efficient man overboard location device -- on any vessel less than 60 feet overall can be a vexing problem.

But now the Sydney safety equipment supplier SOS Marine has come up with a patented development of the old Dan Buoy that brings the device into the 21st century and eliminates the storage problem.

The SOS Dan Buoy comes in a very neat handbag-sized package that can be attached to the stern railings of a yacht or the side of a motor boat's cabin. It detaches instantly and can be thrown by anyone, man, woman or child, to someone who has had the misfortune to go overboard.

On hitting the water, a small gas canister is triggered and a two metre high inflatable marker tube in bright day-glow yellow is inflated. The marker has webbing arm supports at water level, it is dotted with reflective tape and has a long yellow streamer and bright strobe light at the top.

It is also fitted with a drogue to stop it from being blown away from the MOB. It drifts with the sea currents at the same rate as a swimmer in the water. When reaching the SOS Dan Buoy, the MOB can slip their arms through webbing straps at water level and be safely supported, without using their hands, until help arrives.

Tests carried out show that the SOS Dan Buoy can be seen by a man in the water from almost 600 metres and from the deck of a searching vessel, with the naked eye, from 1700 metres.

The streaming ribbon and flashing strobe also give excellent visibility in rough seas, where waves may prevent any sighting of the MOB.

The device has also been tested by police, search and rescue and customs officers and all have praised its practical, life-saving features.

Officials have said the loss of life in the recent refugee boat tragedy at Christmas Island could have been reduced if SOS Dan Buoys had been available for deployment. As anyone who has taken part in a safety at sea exercise knows, it is virtually impossible to don a life jacket once you are already in the water.

The life jackets tossed to the panicking refugees just bobbed around in the swell as they struggled to survive.

The SOS Dan Buoy can be used in fresh or salt water and takes up less room in a fishing tinny than a tackle box. Once used the device can be deflated and repacked with a fresh gas cartridge.

SOS Marine designs and manufactures specialised lifejackets and safety, security and combat equipment for the armed forces, police and emergency services in Australia and overseas.

Media Contact:

Helen Mansour,

SOS Marine, 23 a Rochester Street, Botany NSW Australia

Telephone +61 2 97000233 Email helen@sosmarine.com.au or visit www.danbuoy.com