



CMC Rescue Technical Report #2

DECONTAMINATING ROPE AND WEB

For many years, the manufacturers of life safety ropes recommended the use of a cleaning product designed for life safety ropes, such as LifeLine Cleaner, or a mild soap that was safe for nylons. Woolite is a brand name example. Harnesses and web products are also made of nylon and the same washing considerations would apply to those products as well.

With the increasing concern for personal safety when dealing with bloodborne pathogens, a procedure was needed to decontaminate rope and harnesses that was not in conflict with safe washing of these products. For an answer, we contacted the engineering staff at Wellington Commercial Cordage.

Rope that has come into contact with blood or other body fluids can be cleaned using chlorine bleach per your department's protocols for decontaminating equipment. Wellington said that the small amount of bleach specified in most decontamination protocols would have minimal effect on the rope's fibers. This would hold true for harnesses and other web products although some minor discoloration may occur.

For further information on CMC Rescue products, please call 800-235-5741 or 805-562-9120.

Source: Wellington Commercial Cordage

▣ June 1999, CMC Rescue, Inc.