

Mission-specific boats with a twist...

The world has long had access to boats built for specific missions such as search and rescue. But in 1992, a U.S. company called Rescue ONE Connector Boats introduced not only a mission-specific search and rescue boat, but a boat system that would allow individual boats to be connected together to form larger vessels and/or platforms that expand the capabilities of singular boats to achieve larger scale missions.

The all-welded, aluminium-constructed Rescue ONE Connector Boat is anchored in its patented QuickFIT railing system that enables multiple boats to be connected side-by-side or end-to-end. Two boats can be connected together in less than 20 seconds and can then be disconnected in less than 5 seconds. This flexible connected system allows various missions to be accomplished that are simply not possible using single boats.

The Connector Boat in its singular form is built specifically for public safety missions. With its wide, flat bottom and rectangular shape, the stability of the boat is unmatched. This stability translates to safety for water rescue technicians. Safety is also achieved by the more than 538,000 cu cm of flotation material contained in the boat. This means the boat will not sink if swamped. Other features of the boat include removable SeaTool boxes that act as bench seating

and storage compartments. When removed, the flat non-skid flooring area becomes open work space. The SeaTool bench seats also float if necessary to put overboard.

A unique accessory that makes the Connector Boat a must-have is the dive rescue platform. This platform stows in the bow and is deployed to create a shelf below the surface of the water. This platform then allows rescue technicians to assist victims in the water rather than reaching over the side of the boat and also creates a ladder for boarding the boat for both victim and rescuer. This is particularly beneficial for fragile victims that cannot be hoisted over the side of a boat, or an incapacitated victim on a backboard or basket that needs to be carefully loaded into the boat. Another use of the platform has evolved over the past few years, as dive recovery has been the preferred method for body or evidence recovery. Exiting a boat has never been an issue for divers. Returning themselves and their gear safely inside the boat has been the constant challenge. With the Connector Boat fitted dive rescue platform, the divers can now swim up to the platform and sit down. Once recovered from a strenuous mission, the diver can stand up, securely hand their equipment to a tender inside the boat, and then take two steps to safely and easily board the boat. Also constructed of welded aluminium, the platform is easily deployed and retrieved

by a single person. Versatility is another aspect of the Connector Boat system that makes it a true value. Many times, agencies must purchase different types of boats to accomplish specific missions. While that still must occur in special circumstances, having one boat that can accomplish multiple missions is ideal. Yet another capability of the Connector Boat system is the ability to quickly and easily convert your boat system to a fireboat. With the removal of a seat in the Connector Boat, the boat can be fitted with a fire pump. A specially designed 500-gallon per minute fire pump fits into the void of the front bench seat to provide immediate firefighting or water source capability. In its custom fitted frame, the Connector Boat fire pump houses a 20hp pump, fuel tank, battery, 8' flex hose suction, barrel strainer and fixed monitor with nozzle making it a self-contained unit capable of being dropped in at a moment's notice. Not only does the pump act as a quick attack apparatus for on water firefighting, its 2.5" utility discharge can be used to pump water to a land based tender when other sources of water are not available. Dewatering of flooded vessels can also be achieved with the on board pump system.

The Connector Boats unique design allows it to navigate extremely shallow water. With a draft of mere inches, the boats are able to take rescuers to location such as flooded urban streets that

traditional boats just cannot go. And with its durable aluminum construction, it is made for the demands of work in debris filled flood rescue and evacuation missions. Connector boats can even be outfitted with outboard jet drives which can propel the boat in less than 10 inches of water.

While its singular form is a tremendous asset, the system really proves itself by linking boats together. You may ask; why would I want to connect boats together? There are numerous applications.

- Evacuation bridges to literally walk victims from a flooded or endangered structure/area. There is no limit to the number of boats that may be connected. You build what you need.
- Humanitarian aid barges to disperse food, water, and other supplies to remote areas. Imagine creating a 20 meter barge from 4 boats loaded with supplies. When you reach your destination, you disconnect the boats and send them on individual missions to disperse the aid. When complete, recreate the barge and return to base.
- Floating command platforms can become beneficial when managing a large-scale water incident. Ground command can be



difficult when all the coordination and work needs to occur at the actual water scene.

- Diving platforms can also be created with multiple dive/rescue platforms deployed to stage rescue divers as well as rehabilitation areas for large scale extended dive recovery operations.

The most impressive aspect of Rescue ONE Connector Boats is not its durability, versatility, or even design, but its customers. Over 600 agencies worldwide have invested in the boat system that has changed how they conduct water operations. Notable customers include

- U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- U.S. Army
- Orlando, FL Fire and Rescue
- Suffolk Fire Rescue Service (UK)
- Atlanta, GA Fire Rescue
- Minneapolis, MN Fire Department
- Peoples Democratic Republic of Laos
- Nashville, TN Fire Department
- Dallas, TX Fire Rescue

Innovation has propelled the world of water rescue and the Rescue ONE Connector Boat system is leading the way to minimizing the effect of flooding tragedies while increasing rescuer effectiveness. In 1992, Rescue ONE founder Tony Lumpkin

recognized the need for a safe, stable platform designed to enhance the safety of on-water fire, rescue, and law enforcement personnel. Lumpkin realized that teams performing water-based missions needed to focus on mission-critical activities rather than on the functionality of their boats. He further recognized that if multiple boats could be connected together, the capacity and stability of the working platform would be exponentially increased. With stability and durability underpinning his design, Lumpkin developed a single, ultra-stable craft built to withstand extreme stresses and loads. Thanks to the innovative design of Lumpkin's original 1600 Connector Boat, Rescue ONE is now a leading provider of multi-use, interoperable boats for the fire, rescue, and law enforcement communities across the world. Lightweight, stable, and durable enough to withstand the harshest of environments, the Connector Boat from Rescue ONE is ideally-suited for applications ranging from fire suppression and dive rescue to search and rescue operations. Rescue ONE's patented QuickFIT rail system allows Connector Boats to interconnect, providing an interoperable, multi-unit platform with unparalleled stability and rescue coverage as Connector Boats from one agency may be quickly partnered with boats from others. Thanks to its incredible floatation capabilities, the Connector Boat is also able to accommodate weights of up to 1,000 pounds on its gunwales (sides) without tipping or becoming unstable.

To find a complete list of customers, go to:
www.rescueone.com