



SAFETY ALERT

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Adventurous Activities Practice Note

Topic: Safety Harness
Discipline: All Vertical Disciplines
Audience: All Vertical Practitioners in NSW
Compliance: **Mandatory for all Scouts NSW Members**
Currency: Current until 31 December 2023 or when included in Procedure

AAPN 2022/001
18 August 2022
ACTIVE



At a recent Scout event a safety harness failed while in use. Thankfully, no-one was hurt. The harness was manufactured by Mad Rock. A number of these harnesses are known to be in circulation within Scouts NSW as they were purchased for the 2020 Cuboree.

The harness failed as the red webbing of the leg section was not threaded through the blue attachment point, meaning that the non-load rated black webbing (which was threaded through the blue attachment point) was taking the load. The harness was supplied new in this configuration. A second harness was also found to be in the same configuration.

If your Group or Region is in possession of any of these harnesses, please check that the red webbing sections are threaded through the blue attachment point. If this is not the case and the black webbing has not been damaged, the situation can be rectified by threading one of the leg sections through the blue attachment point.

Correct



Incorrect



When fitting the harness, a tell-tale sign that the harness is configured incorrectly is that the leg buckle straps will need to be pulled downwards (between the legs) when tightening, rather than outwards.

This incident acts as a reminder to make sure that all safety equipment is checked prior to use and that people checking harnesses are aware of how a correctly fitted harness should look. Finally, always check that you are following manufacturers specifications and instructions.

Regards,

Walter Warner
State Leader Vertical Activities

Kenton Jurgs
State Commissioner Adventurous Activities

Youth Safety in Scouting

Scouts NSW is committed to operating as a youth safe organisation and implementing youth safe policies and practices in accordance with the elements of a child safe institution outlined by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse report entitled Creating Child Safe Institutions.

Remember

All suspicions, concerns or allegations about criminal matters or child protection matters should be reported directly to the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner (Youth Safety, Compliance and Support), the CEO or the Child Protection Officer at the Scouts NSW Service Centre. To make a report use the [online youth protection form](#), call 02 9735 9000 or email youthprotection@nsw.scouts.com.au.

Imminent Danger

If someone is in danger NOW, the matter should be reported directly to NSW Police on 000. Where a report is made to the Police, you must also subsequently notify Scouts NSW Service Centre.

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