

PORTLAND PUDGY

6. Boarding Ladder Fender (MFC)

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BOARDING LADDER/FENDER (MFC)

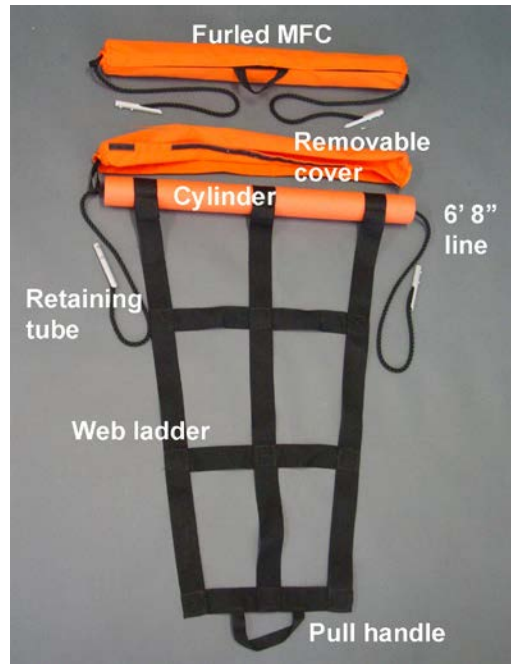
The boarding ladder/fender MFC (multifunction cylinder) is a boarding ladder, grab line, fender, foot rest when righting the Pudgy, and adds additional buoyancy.

MFC Components

The MFC consists of:

- Closed cell foam cylinder with a hard central tube
- Web boarding ladder with a pull handle, which wraps around the foam cylinder
- Removable cover closed with a Velcro strip, and with a small loop and retaining tether to attach it to the MFC line (rope)
- Six-foot-eleven-inch (>2m) three-eighth-inch (9.5mm) diameter line with an aluminum retaining tube at each end.

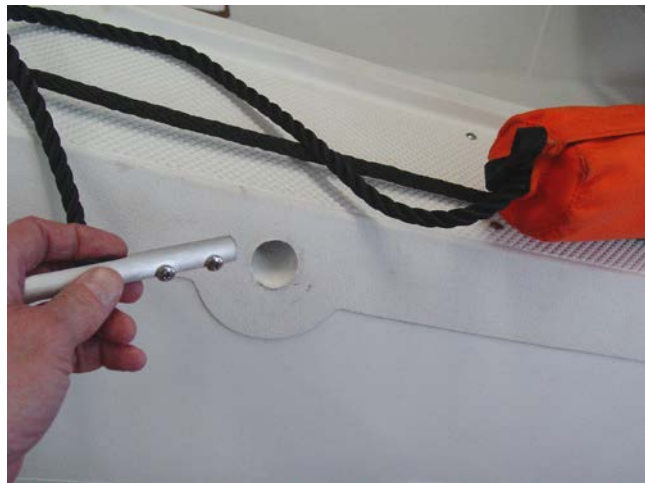
When you first receive the MFC it is fully assembled, with the boarding ladder's pull handle sticking out through the Velcro strip. **Observe how it is assembled so you can roll it up the same way.**



Boarding Ladder Fender Components

Installing the MFC

1. From the outside of the boat, insert the aluminum retaining tube at one end of the line into the through-hole near the front of the boat, and pull it all the way through the hole.
2. From the outside of the boat, tug the line so that the retaining pin catches and opens flat.
3. Now repeat steps 1 and 2 for the rear through hole.
4. Give the MFC a strong tug from outside the boat, to ensure that the retaining pins are engaged.
5. Slide the cylinder along the line to the center, more or less in line with the middle seat.



Step 1. Insert metal tube in through hole

Note: The MFC functions best as a fender and as a boarding ladder when it is centered in the middle of the reflective strip on the side of the boat.

Note: If you are using the MFC in conjunction with the preset exposure canopy, be sure to place the exposure canopy on the same side as the unzipped opening in the canopy. Also, when presetting the MFC with the exposure canopy and boat cover, after the MFC is installed, you can tuck the MFC up over the gunwale and inside before covering with the boat cover.

Climbing into Boat Using MFC/Boarding Ladder

IMPORTANT: Practice climbing into the Pudgy before an emergency arises.



Climbing in, using the MFC

1. Release the boarding ladder by pulling down the handle in the middle of the MFC. Try to position the boat for entry from the windward side (the side the wind is blowing from).

Note: It is best to climb in from the windward side if possible.

2. Grab onto the inside of the boat, if possible.
3. With your foot pressed onto a low “rung” of the boarding ladder, allow the Pudgy to heel down toward you as you get your arms and then chest onto the gunwale. This will lower the gunwale toward the water and allow you to slide over the gunwale and into the boat more easily.
4. Keeping your foot pressed against the rung of the ladder, using it like the stirrup of a saddle, kick out as horizontal to the water as possible. (If you try to climb vertically up the web ladder, it will swing down under the boat, making it very difficult to climb in.) Allow the Pudgy to heel. It will not capsize if you use this method.
5. Pull yourself in, using the handholds on the seat, and continuing to push out horizontally, with your feet on the rungs of the ladder.

Climbing into the Boat in an Emergency

Before an emergency arises, all passengers should practice getting into the boat from the water.

If possible, do not jump off the mother vessel and then climb into the Pudgy from the water—instead, step into the Pudgy from the mother vessel. Only jump into the water off the mother vessel as a last resort.

If you are in the water, it is critically important that you maintain a physical connection to the Pudgy at all times: All persons in the water should hold onto a grab-line, the MFC, the bridle, or any part of the boat they can. Ideally, you should be wearing a safety harness so you can tether yourself to the boat. Follow the steps outlined above for climbing into the boat.

Before an emergency arises, think out the safest and most efficient strategy to get all passengers into the boat, in a given scenario (for example, who will be most in need of assistance in getting into the Pudgy, and who is most able to help). There are always many variables in a situation of this kind; you will have to use your judgment.

In general the basic rule is: Stay connected to the Pudgy when in the water, and get into the boat as quickly and efficiently as possible to avoid hypothermia.

CAUTION: In strong winds, climb into the Pudgy from the windward side, to prevent the wind catching the heeled boat and flipping it over on you.

Righting Portland Pudgy Using the MFC as a Footrest

Read the important general information in *2. Basic Boat*. **YOU SHOULD PRACTICE RIGHTING THE PUDGY BEFORE AN EMERGENCY ARISES.**

1. Grab each hand hold in the keel (or if applicable, to the loop attached to the hand holds for leverage. See *2. Basic Boat, Righting the Pudgy*).
2. Depending on your height and weight, put your knees or your feet on the side of the boat (or on the multifunction cylinder) and get in position to leverage the boat back to position.
3. Lean backward, until the boat rolls over. As the boat rolls over, be careful to move out of the way, so that it doesn't hit you as it turns over. Protect your head.
4. As the boat rolls over to its righted position—to help it scoop up less water and come up nearly dry—try not to bear down with too much weight on the boat as it rolls over.

IMPORTANT: While you must stay out of the way of the boat as it turns over, at the same time it is extremely important that you stay in physical contact with the boat.

NOTE: If there are other persons in the water, they can hold onto the bridle while one person rights the Pudgy.

