

IRB Awareness

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What is 'IRB Awareness'

Many of our Bronze Medallion members are asked to assist with the manual handling and set up/pack down of IRBs when on patrol. It is important that these members know how to operate safely around IRB equipment if/when asked to help by the IRB driver.

The introduction of an 'IRB Awareness' unit into the Bronze Medallion award training (Certificate II in Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue) will ensure that Bronze Medallion holders are familiar with the correct manual handling techniques and safety aspects of basic IRB operations.

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Which SLS members need to complete the IRB Awareness unit?

Candidates in-training for the Bronze Medallion Award

ALL members training for their Bronze Medallion – Certificate II in Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue are required to complete the unit.

Qualified Bronze Medallion Candidates

ALL members who currently hold the Bronze Medallion award (and do not hold an IRB award) are required to complete this unit as part of the annual proficiency for the 2011/12 lifesaving season. Following the delivery of this unit in the 2011/12 lifesaving season, ongoing proficiencies do not need to include this unit.

Qualified IRB drivers and crew do not need to complete the unit.

Who can deliver an IRB Awareness unit?

The unit can be delivered by a qualified and proficient IRB driver or IRB training officer.

Who can assess an the IRB Awareness unit?

The unit can be assessed by a qualified Bronze assessor who has completed the IRB Awareness unit.



What is the content of the IRB Awareness unit?

The IRB Awareness unit covers the following information:

- Lifting and transporting IRB equipment
- Assisting with launching and beaching an IRB
- Lifting and carrying a patient from the IRB
- Care when in the IRB area

How is the IRB Awareness unit delivered?

1. Candidates are taken through each of the following components with qualified IRB operators demonstrating and explaining each skill and passing on correct knowledge.
 - Lifting and transporting IRB equipment
 - Assisting with launching and beaching an IRB
 - Lifting and carrying a patient from the IRB
 - Care when in the IRB area
2. Candidates are then given time to practice the skills in each of the above four components with the IRB driver or IRB trainer assisting candidates to refine and perfect them.
3. Candidates are then assessed for competency in the practical skills and knowledge learnt in the unit.

Notes:

- The unit is of practical nature only. There is no written theory component to this unit.
- The time required for the delivery of the unit will depend on the candidate group size. For new training candidates, time should be set aside for the delivery of the unit towards the end of the Bronze Medallion course
- Qualified and proficient IRB drivers and crew can assist in delivering this unit; however, under the instruction of the leading IRB driver or IRB trainer.
- Candidates are to refer to supporting material in the 33rd Edition Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Manual.



Four components of an IRB Awareness unit

1. LIFTING AND TRANSPORTING IRB EQUIPMENT

For full details on lifting and transporting IRB equipment, please refer to page 10 in the 33rd Edition of the Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Manual.

Activity skills for candidates:

- Correct lifting and transportation techniques for an IRB (laden and unladen), using clear communication.
- Correct lifting and transportation techniques for an outboard motor, using clear communication.

Lifting tips and techniques:

1. Face the direction where you intend to go
2. Bend at the knees and crouch down, with a straight back
3. Stand with your feet shoulder width apart to provide a wide base of support
4. Keep the load close to your body
5. The IRB operators are to call the lift – ‘Ready, one, two, three, lift’
6. Brace your core stomach muscles and keep your back in a neutral position.



Activity knowledge for candidates:

- Candidates may only assist in lifting and transporting equipment when requested by an IRB driver.
- Always follow the instructions of the IRB driver.
- Laden IRB – To be lifted by a minimum of four people and transported on a trailer by an all terrain vehicle (ATV) to and from the beach.
- Unladen IRB – To be lifted by a minimum of two people and transported on a trailer by and ATV to and from the beach.
- Outboard motor - To be lifted by a minimum of two people and transported on a trolley to and from the IRB

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Four components of an IRB Awareness unit

2. ASSISTING WITH LAUNCHING AND RETRIEVING AN IRB

For full details on assisting with launching and retrieving an IRB, please refer to page 169-170 in the 33rd Edition of the Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Manual.

Activity skills for candidates:

- Assisting with launching an IRB, standing on both the port (left) and starboard (right) side of the IRB.
- Assisting with retrieving an IRB, helping to clear the water of swimmers in the IRB's path
- Using correct signals to communicate to/from the IRB and the beach.

Activity knowledge for candidates:

- Candidates may only assist with launching and retrieving an IRB when requested by an IRB driver.
- Always follow the instructions of the IRB driver.
- Never stand directly behind an IRB in the water.
- Always be cautious around an IRB in the water. Long objects such as wetsuit straps, rope, long hair can become entangled in the propeller.
- When helping to launch an IRB, always hold it straight into oncoming waves.



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3. LIFTING AND CARRYING A PATIENT FROM THE IRB

For full details on lifting and a patient from the IRB, please refer to page 147 in the 33rd Edition of the Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Manual.

Activity skills for candidates:

- Correct lifting and carrying of a patient from an IRB, using clear communication.

Activity knowledge for candidates:

- Candidates may only assist in lifting and carrying a patient from the IRB when requested by an IRB driver.
- Always follow the instructions of the IRB driver.



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Four components of an IRB Awareness unit

4. CARE WHEN IN THE IRB OPERATIONS AREA

For full details on lifting and a patient from the IRB, please refer to 'Chapter 1 – Safety and Wellbeing' of the 33rd Edition of the Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Manual.

Activity skills for candidates:

There are no practical skills for candidates.

Activity knowledge for candidates:

The following safety information should be conveyed to candidates:

- Candidates may only assist in the IRB operations area under the direction of the IRB driver.
- Always follow the instructions of the IRB driver.
- Fuel bladders must be filled in a well ventilated area.
- Fuel cans must be stored in a flame proof cupboard.
- IRB shed should be left clean and tidy to ensure there are no tripping hazards.
- Heavy equipment (E.g. propeller guards) should not be stored in high places to avoid accidental falls and injury.
- Always ask for assistance when lifting heavy items.
- If you notice something is damaged or unsafe, let the IRB driver know as soon as possible.

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Assessment of IRB Awareness

Assessment objective

The candidate has the correct skills and knowledge to operate and assist safely around a IRB when requested by a qualified IRB operator.

Designing the activity

- Each activity must be run at least once for each candidate
- Each activity can be run with multiple candidates being assessed in each skill
- The activity is to be run on the beach or in the shallow IRB launching/retrieving area of the water (as appropriate).

Essential assessment practical activities

The candidate MUST follow instructions from the IRB operators during each of the following assessment components:

1. Lifting and transporting the IRB from its stationary patrol beach position to the water's edge; in anticipation for launch
2. Assisting the IRB driver and crew launching the IRB
3. Assisting the safe return of the IRB to the beach
4. Successful understanding and communication of signals
5. Lifting and carrying the IRB patient to the beach
6. Demonstrating a knowledge of safe operations in the IRB area

Assessment checklist

Skills:	Knowledge:
Demonstrate safe lifting and transportation techniques of an IRB	SLSA signals
Demonstrate safe launching and retrieving techniques of an IRB	Ratios for lifting IRB equipment
Demonstrate safe lifting and carrying of a patient from an IRB	Correct storage of IRB equipment in IRB area

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IRB driver and crew in-depth proficiency

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IRB In-Depth Proficiency

Candidates:

The proficiency is applicable to all active patrolling members who hold an SLS IRB crew and/or driver award.

Assessors:

It is recommended that there are at least two IRB assessors for an in-depth IRB proficiency. It is recommended that at least one assessor is from outside of the club/service where the proficiency is being held.

Candidate numbers:

It is recommended that there are two assessors per ten candidates being assessed at the same time.

Proficiency conditions:

Surf: It is recommended that the proficiency be held in surf conditions of minimum 1m breaking waves.

Equipment: Standard patrol IRB equipment and safety signage is required for the proficiency.

Example proficiency procedure:

1. All candidates must register their attendance on a State/Territory proficiency card for each applicable award.
2. Assessors brief candidates on the proficiency process
3. IRB equipment is set up by candidates for the proficiency
4. Candidates should complete the following components:
 - SLS signals testing
 - Testing knowledge of search and rescue techniques
 - Introduction to the 'lock-in' position if required
 - Practical water skills, including rescues
5. Candidates pack down IRB equipment

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IRB Driver and Crew Proficiency Card

Club name: _____ Branch: _____ State/Territory: _____

Assessor Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ : _____ AM/PM

Sea Conditions: Calm Chop Moderate Rough

Wave Height: 0-0.5m 0.5-1.5m 1.5-2.5m 2.5m+

This check list is to assist Assessors running proficiency assessments for Drivers & Crew. Once the Drivers and/or Crews have completed their relevant requirements please complete their individual Proficiency Card

← **✓/x** →

CANDIDATE NAME	IRB driver (D), crew (C) or both (B)	Safe manual handling techniques	Correct set up of an IRB	Safe & correct boarding and launching of IRB	Negotiate conditions safely (through waves using lock in position)	Turn IRB effectively (Incl Figure 8)	Parallel Run	Use and respond to IRB signals	Communicate effectively with driver/crew	Perform rescue adequately	Safely beach IRB	Understands search and rescue operations	PROFICIENT IN ASSESSMENT CONDITIONS	Y/N

Assessor Signature: _____