

Jon Vipond
Peak Rescue
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11/12/2016

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Sgt. Jon Vipond and I have been a professional open water lifeguard with a major Southern California City for more than 20 years. I have also been a California State OES swiftwater and flood rescue team supervisor, and I am a river and flood water rescue instructor and rope rescue instructor registered with the State of California. In the course of my duties, I have participated in the training and modernization of our equipment and rescue protocols and evaluated many new pieces of gear developed for water rescues.

Kenney Pierce has worked closely with our department over many years to develop safer equipment for offshore rescue including his lifeguard buoy belts with emergency release and his device for safer emergency towing of vessels with PWC.

It is my professional opinion that, though his Quick Collar rescue device can be a valuable tool in the toolbox for water rescue teams, I have come to view it as, potentially, an even more valuable tool for use by first responders (fire/rescue & law enforcement), who are usually the first on the scene of water related emergencies.

The Quick Collar can give them a simple and effective tool to throw to victims in danger of drowning and, most importantly, prevent first responders from acting on the dangerous impulse to enter the water to save a life. It immediately provides the victim with a flotation device and establishes a vital lifeline to them. The Quick Collar can help prevent water related emergencies from rapidly deteriorating due to panic, rising water or hypothermia, buys time for trained rescuers to arrive on scene and can be used to do basic rescues from shore when rescue teams are distant, responding to other rescues or otherwise unable to respond.

To summarize, I support giving first responders a basic tool to prevent drownings and help keep them from acting on the urge to enter the water to save lives. I also believe the Quick Collar is the first and best tool designed for accomplishing that mission. If you have any questions, feel free contact me at the email address provided above.