



PEB#000079
Recall of Certain Plastic Ripcord Handles Optional
1979

Relative Workshop Recalls. Certain Plastic Reserve Ripcords

The Relative Workshop is requesting that owners of Wonderhogs equipped with a particular type of plastic reserve ripcord handle return the ripcord so it can be replaced with a metal-handled ripcord.

During the early months of 1979, the Relative Workshop shipped Wonderhogs with nylon plastic reserve ripcord handles. Until then, The Wonderhog harness and container system was supplied with metal anti-windblast handles, but the "banning" of these handles by several national parachute associations and the subsequent incorrect information that was published about the blast handle forced the Relative Workshop to offer an alternative handle.

A plastic copy of the Martin-Baker ripcord handle was chosen because it was both available and widely used by other parachute manufacturers. The company began supplying Wonderhogs with metal Martin-Baker reserve ripcords as soon as a supply of the handles was located.

Very recently the Relative Workshop learned of two documented instances where plastic reserve ripcord handles failed when pulled in the air. Although the incidents did not involve Wonderhogs, the ripcord handles were of the same type and source as those used on some Wonderhogs. The handles that failed were both over two years old, significantly older than even the oldest ones used on some Wonderhogs.

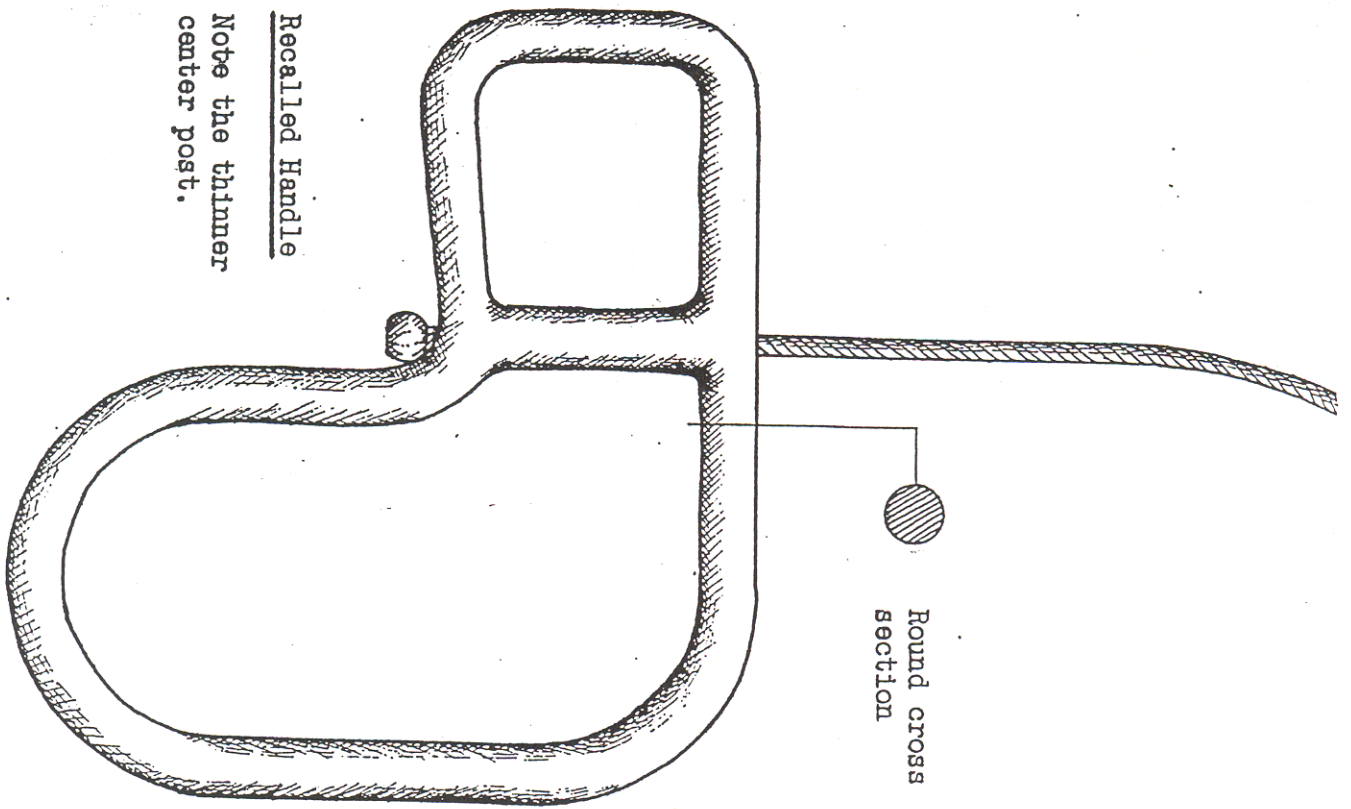
Although no injuries resulted from these failures, the Relative Workshop has decided to replace ripcords of this particular type with ones with metal handles. Owners of Wonderhogs equipped with these handles may receive a replacement ripcord by returning the plastic one and the information specified below directly to the Relative Workshop.

Note that only one specific type of plastic handle is suspected of being inadequate. Only that specific type will be replaced at no cost to the Wonderhog owner.

Also, the probability of handle failure is very low. But the Relative Workshop is convinced that even one failure is significant when a reserve ripcord is involved.

The ripcords being recalled were obtained from the Jump Shack, Inc. They are made of tan nylon, have a round cross section and a smooth finish, The cable passes through a post that has the same diameter as the rest of the handle.

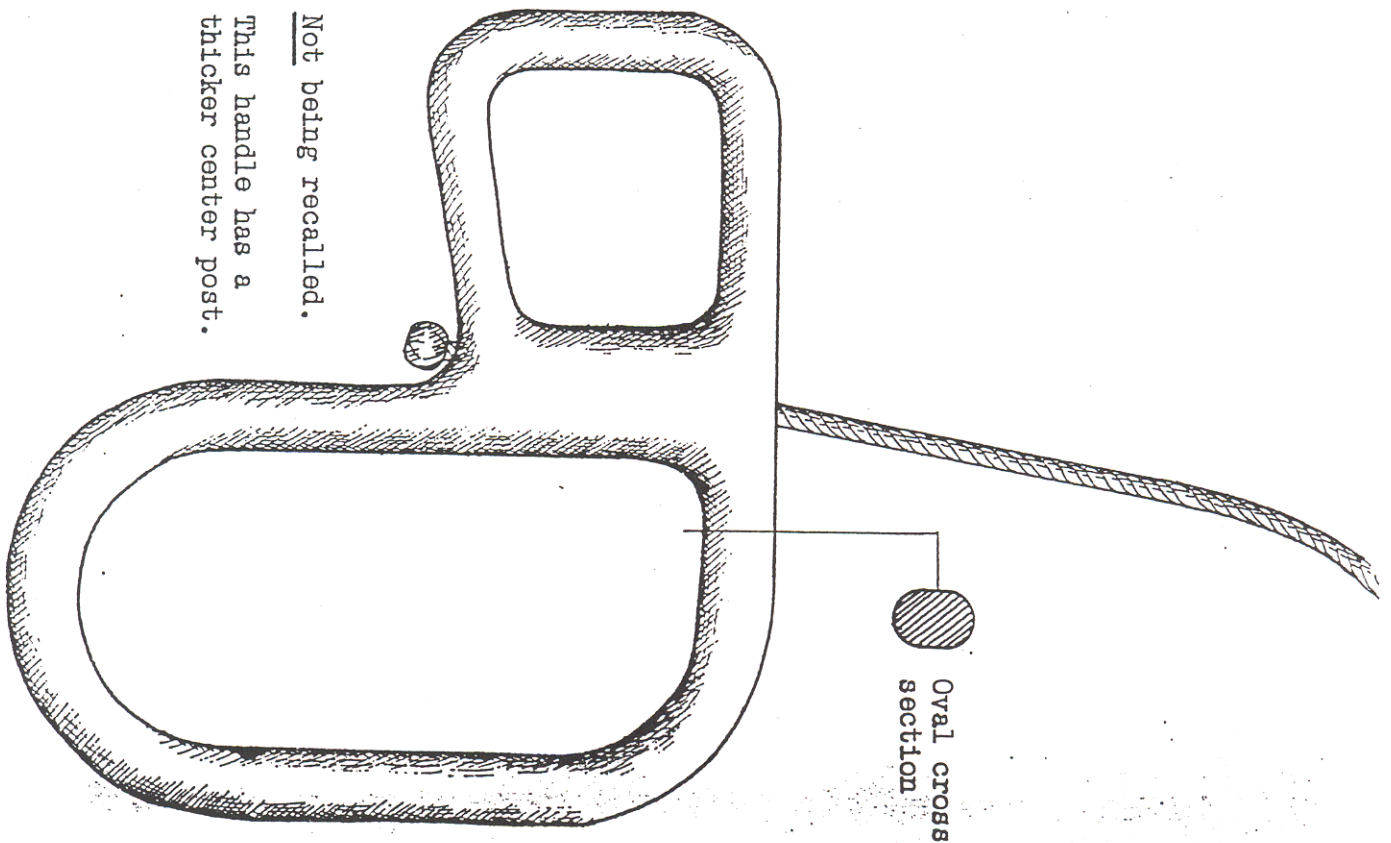
(Another plastic reserve ripcord handle is not involved in this recall. It has a rougher finish and is made of a translucent plastic. The handle has an oval cross section and a thickened post through which the cable passes. Refer to the illustrations below.)



Recalled Handle

Note the thinner center post.

Round cross section



Not being recalled.

This handle has a thicker center post.

Oval cross section