



TAKE FIVE...

for safety
Five minutes reading
could save your life!

Underwater Egress

Although the odds of experiencing a ditching event are extremely low, preflight preparation and knowledge are paramount to survival should it happen.

The following items will enhance your chance of a successful egress.

1. Pre-flight Preparation

Ensure the pilot-in-command demonstrates the location and use of the emergency exits, life preservers, emergency equipment, life raft, and the proper brace position—before the flight. For extended over-water flights, consider wearing your life preserver. Make sure all baggage and cargo is secured so it does not block access to the emergency exits.

2. In-flight Preparation

If you are aware that you are about to ditch, do the following:

- Put on your life preserver but **DO NOT INFLATE IT.**
- Locate all emergency exits, note where they are in relation to your right or left hand, and visualize how to open them.
- Assume the proper brace position for your seat, as briefed by the crew.
- Follow the instructions given by the pilot-in-command.

3. Underwater Egress Procedure

- **Try to remain calm!**
- Take a deep breath prior to being submersed under water.

- **OPEN YOUR EYES.**
- Orient yourself in relation to your selected emergency exit.
- Get a firm grip on a fixed reference point.
- If you are seated right next to your emergency exit:
 - Wait until the water has filled three quarters of the cabin before you fully open the exit, then open it.
 - Release your safety harness.
 - Pull yourself free from the cabin.
 - Inflate your life preserver after exiting the aircraft.
- If you are NOT seated right next to the emergency exit:
 - Release your safety harness and proceed to your emergency exit.
 - Wait until the water has filled three quarters of the cabin before you fully open the exit, then open it.
 - Pull yourself free from the cabin.
 - Inflate your life preserver after exiting the aircraft.

Some of the difficulties during underwater egress include lack of oxygen; disorientation; in-rushing water; obscured vision; and floating debris. **Don't panic.** You know you can hold your breath, so relax for a moment; open your eyes; find the exit; and egress. These are basic guidelines only, and your best defence is underwater egress training.

