



Figure 18-17
Passing a Drop Pump on the Towline

H.3.b. Pump Operation

Since the Coast Guard switches out models of drop pumps when newer models become available, every drop pump comes with instructions specifically designed for that model pump. These instructions for operation can be found inside the storage container. These are extremely helpful if the pump is transferred to another vessel to use.

All crewmembers should be familiar with these instructions and practice operating the drop pump often.

The following procedures are the basic steps for setting up and using a drop pump. Again, refer to the instructions that come with the pump for specific operation instructions.

CAUTION !

Breathing exhaust fumes can be dangerous. Do not attempt to start or operate a pump while it is in a container. Once a pump is started, ensure sufficient ventilation is present to allow exhaust gases to dissipate into the atmosphere. Do not operate a drop pump below deck.

Step	Procedure
1	Pull the handle to release the tension ring or undo the locking clips on the storage container.
2	Lift the lid and open the plastic bag. Lift out the drop pump, hoses, and fuel.
3	Check the engine oil level (oil must be visible).
4	Check the fuel tank and connection to the engine. Fill if needed.
5	Mount and connect fuel tank, if applicable.
6	Connect the discharge hose and lay it out on deck so there are no kinks or twists. During operation, the discharge hose should be manned or tied off to prevent flooding into another space.
7	Place the discharge valve on the pump in the <i>closed</i> position.



Step	Procedure
8	Attach connection end of suction hose to pump and lower strainer end into compartment to be dewatered.
9	Actuate the hand-priming pump. Grasp the handle, then raise and lower it until the pump is primed. If pump doesn't prime, check suction fitting to ensure it is tight.
10	Place the choke lever on the engine in the "choke" position.
11	Pull the starter cord.
12	Place the engine choke lever in the "run" position and try pulling the starter cord again.
13	After the engine starts, prime the pump again. A pump can run dry for approximately one minute but it was designed to be started only after suction has been taken.
14	Open the discharge valve slowly.
15	Post a watch on the pump. The engine will run approximately 2-3 hours on one tank of fuel. The pump watch must be alert for debris around the strainer and must ensure the strainer remains submerged. Watch for fuel leaks.
16	Stop the pump and check the engine oil level after 5 hours of operation.

H.3.c. Securing a Pump

There are separate procedures for securing a drop pump depending on whether it is being secured because of an emergency or to be stowed.

H.3.c.1. Securing in an Emergency

Perform the following procedures for securing:

Step	Procedure
1	Push the stop lever against the spark plug. This allows a pump to stop for refueling, checking the oil, or standby.

H.3.c.2. Securing for Storage

Perform the following the procedures when securing the pump for storage:

Step	Procedure
1	Disconnect the fuel line. The pump will run for approximately one minute and stop.
2	Remove the suction and discharge hose.
3	Drain both hoses and any water in the pump.
4	Flush pump and hoses with fresh water.
5	Place in a dry, protected area for drying.
6	After drying, restow all gear in a container.