Aerial and Hand-Held Flare Instructions

Principles of Signaling
The purpose of distress signaling is simple: first, to attract attention, and second, to pinpoint your location to guide the responding party to your craft. Remember, nothing can happen until someone’s attention is attracted. The most effective distress signals for attracting someone’s attention are aerial flares and parachute flares because they are moving, spectacular and cover a large sighting area. Once help is on the way, hand-held red signal flares, orange smoke signals and orange distress flags serve as beacons for rescuers to pinpoint your position and keep them on course.

If You are in a Signaling Situation:
1. Conserve your signals until you are reasonably sure of being detected. Wait until you see or hear a vessel or aircraft before using “one-time” signals.
2. Stay with the boat if it is safe to do so. A boat is easier to spot than a swimmer.
3. Above all, familiarize yourself with your signals before you leave shore. Time is important in any emergency and shouldn’t be spent reading instructions!

Replacement & Disposal Instructions
Marine distress signals are date coded and must be replaced every 42 months to meet Coast Guard requirements. If your flares or smoke signals have expired (or will expire) during the boating season, you must replace them. It’s the law!

To dispose of expired marine pyrotechnic distress signals, Orion recommends the following methods:
• Donate expired flares to Coast Guard Auxiliary or Power Squadron for use in their training classes.
• Ignite hand-held signal flares on land in a safe area, much the same as highway flares would be ignited.
• Contact a local law enforcement or fire protection agency for their advice on proper visual distress signal (VDS) disposal.
• Retain flares for back-up use to expand signaling time in the event of an emergency.
• Never jettison VDSs overboard.
• Never activate marine flares in non-emergency situations over regulated waters.
• Never dispose of flares in household trash.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION
FLARES present unique hazards because they burn at a very high temperature and are manufactured with energetic chemicals (see SDS at www.orionsignals.com/sds-sheets.html).
Visit us online: www.orionsignals.com

Annual Signal Inspection
Before each boating season check the dates and the condition of your signaling equipment as instructed below. If signals are expired or will expire during the season, replace them immediately!

Test Your Launcher
We recommend that all launchers be checked each year prior to the boating season to be sure it is fully functional, to do so:
1. BE SURE THE FIRING PIN IS NOT BENT.
2. Open the barrel and slide a 12-Gauge Orion signal into the barrel.
3. Check that the signal is fully inserted into the barrel.
4. Close the barrel.

If the barrel fully closes and snaps shut, your launcher is in good operating order. Open the barrel and REMOVE THE SIGNAL AND SAFELY STORE IT WITH YOUR OTHER SIGNALS.

If the barrel does not fully close, DO NOT FORCE IT, check that the signal is pushed all the way into the barrel. If this does not help, REMOVE THE SIGNAL AND SAFELY STORE IT WITH YOUR OTHER SIGNALS. Contact the manufacturer for replacement instructions. DO NOT STORE LAUNCHER LOADED.

Check Your Hand Signals
Check that moisture, mishandling, or improper storage has not corrupted the flare body. Flares are waterproof but extreme conditions can have a negative impact on their performance and shelf life.

ACQUAINT YOURSELF WITH OPERATION OF SIGNALING EQUIPMENT
Prior to each season read the warnings and instructions on all your signals, including the hang tag on your launcher. Be prepared to deploy your signals in an emergency. Family and visiting boaters not children should also be made aware of location and use instructions of all safety gear.

FIRST AID
Skin: wash with soap and water if flare powder contacts skin
Eyes: flush with plenty of water if flare powder contacts eyes
Inhalation: seek fresh air if smoke or fumes from burning flares has been inhaled (avoid breathing fumes)

IF ANY IRRITATION EXISTS AFTER INITIAL FIRST AID (RESPIRATORY, SKIN, OR EYES), CONSULT A PHYSICIAN.
PRODUCT CAN BE REVIEWED AT WWW.ORIONSIGNALS.COM

WARNING: THIS IS NOT A TOY. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. BURNING HOT FLARES LAUNCHED AT HIGH VELOCITY. HAND FLARES PRODUCE HOT FLAME.
Please read the following safety information thoroughly before storing or using your flares.
Instructions For Loading, Launching & Handling

ALL ORION LAUNCHERS ARE DESIGNED TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY WITH ORION SIGNALS ONLY. USE OF ANY OTHER SIGNAL OR SHELL IS DANGEROUS AND VOIDS ALL CLAIMS AND WARRANTIES.

The Orion 12-Gauge launcher is designed to fire Orion 12-Gauge, red and white, aerial signals and Orion 12-Gauge High Performance, single and twin, red aerial signals. The Orion 25MM launcher is designed to fire Orion 25 MM, red aerial signals. The 25MM Launcher, with use of an Orion 12-Gauge converter, can also fire Orion 12-Gauge, red and white, aerial signals and Orion 12-Gauge High Performance, single and twin, red aerial signals.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SAFE & EFFECTIVE USE OF ORION 12 GAUGE & 25 MM LAUNCHERS

Step 1
For most effective use, fire only after sighting potential rescue vessel.
Do not load until ready to fire.

Step 2 – AFTER SIGHTING POTENTIAL RESCUE VESSEL
12-Gauge Launcher
Break launcher barrel open, insert ORION 12-Gauge HP aerial signal and close launcher.

25MM Launcher
Depress blue plastic button on side of launcher to open barrel. Insert 25MM signal or converter and 12-gauge signal. Close launcher.

3
Hold launcher above eye level, point straight up, cock hammer and squeeze trigger.
Repeat with second signal.

1 If the barrel does not fully close, DO NOT FORCE IT, check that the signal is pushed all the way into the barrel. If the barrel will still not close carefully remove the signal and use another signal, repeat Step 2.
2 If a signal does not fire after it has been fully placed in the barrel and the launcher is fully closed, the hammer is pulled back, and the trigger is squeezed, DO NOT IMMEDIATELY OPEN THE LAUNCHER. While rare, a hang-fire (delayed launches after squeezing the trigger) can be very dangerous. Point the launcher overboard towards the water, wait at least 5 seconds, then open launcher and replace signal, repeat Step 2.

LIFETIME LAUNCHER WARRANTY & SERVICE PROGRAM
Orion 12 gauge and 25MM launchers carry a lifetime warranty if used exclusively with applicable Orion aerial signals. In addition, Orion launcher service program allows customers to send their launchers to Orion in the off-season to verify functionality. The launchers are run through a battery of tests to make certain performance has not degraded over time due to extreme environmental, use or storage conditions. If you have a launcher that has failed or if you simply want your launcher serviced, please send your launcher (verify it is empty with no signals in the chamber) to the following address with a note explaining the launcher deficiency or service request and your return address:
Orion Launcher Service Program • Orion Safety Products • 3157 N 500 W • Peru, IN 46970

Aerial Flare. Acceptable as a Day and Night Visual Distress Signal for boats as required by 33 CFR 175.110. For emergency use only.

Hand-Held Red Signal Flares and Orange Smoke Signals

Use Instructions

1. Grasp bottom of flare below holding line on label. Remove black lid on cap.

2. Twist cap, remove and save to ignite flare. Point away from face and body. Aim downwind.

3. In a downward motion, strike button on top of flare with abrasive surface on cap. Hold burning flare over side of boat. Do not wave overhead. Avoid breathing smoke.

WARNING: FOR EMERGENCY SIGNALING ONLY. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. AVOID HEAT, SPARKS AND OPEN FLAMES. NEVER POINT LAUNCHER OR ANY TYPE OF FLARE AT A PERSON, ANIMAL, OR ANYTHING FLAMMABLE. DO NOT LOAD LAUNCHER UNTIL IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO SIGNALING. DO NOT USE WHERE PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT IS ILLEGAL TO IGNITE/FIRE DISTRESS SIGNALS IN A NON-DISTRESS SITUATION. THESE PRODUCTS ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE USED AS WEAPONS AND, USED FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN SIGNALING, MAY SUBJECT USER TO CIVIL OR CRIMINAL ACTION INCLUDING UNDER LOCAL FIREARMS LAWS. NEVER STORE OR CARRY LAUNCHER LOADED. STORE ONBOARD IN SECURE, SAFE, DRY AREA. READ AND FOLLOW ALL USE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Orion USCG Approved signals are produced and independently tested to the specifications provided by the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 46, Part 160. Signal performance, however, can be negatively impacted if such signals are not stored properly. They must be stored in a secure, safe, dry location on your boat and should be removed during long periods of boat storage. All signals and launchers should be inspected at least once annually for damage caused by exposure to moisture or mishandling.