

HALKEY ROBERTS ORAL INFLATION VALVE

Our recent reviews of inflatable PFDs (June 2008) and PFDs with safety harnesses (August 2008) failed to mention a service bulletin issued last year for a Halkey Roberts oral inflation tube for inflatable devices. This oral inflation tube is used to inflate or deflate the vests. To inflate, you simply take off the cap and blow. To deflate, you gently depress the valve using the back side of the dust cap. The bulletin warns service technicians not to use anything but approved service tools or the dust cap top for deflating the vest. In April of this year, a high court judge in Dublin, Ireland, awarded nearly \$1 million in damages to the widow of a man who drowned in an accident involving

a vest with a 740 valve that was apparently stuck open. The service bulletin and a safety alert regarding proper re-arming of the HR 3F manual and 1F Manual/Auto inflators are at www.halkey-roberts.com.



ORION FLARE LAUNCHER

Practical Sailor reader Gary Hill sent us his defective Olin (now Orion) 12-gauge flare launcher (pictured right with the breach opened as far as it can go), one of many that are apparently still in circulation. The breach on these guns does not open far enough to load, rendering them useless in an emergency. The mechanism was re-engineered in 2000, and Orion has agreed to replace any defective guns. Orion Safety, 765/472-4375, www.orionsignals.com.



WEST MARINE BOSUN'S CHAIR

Taylor Made Products and West Marine have issued a voluntary safety recall of the Professional Bosun's Chair, Soft Seat Bosun's Chair, and the Pocket Bosun's Chair. The recall cites the webbing and D-ring as potential failure points that could result in personal injury. As a result, Taylor Made is voluntarily taking this product off the market and urging owners to return the products to the nearest West Marine for a full refund or exchange. West Marine, 800/262-8464, www.westmarine.com; Taylor Made, 877/280-1199, www.taylormadeproducts.com.