

# 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.

## 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 500W • Peru, IN 46970



### Step 1

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



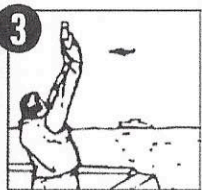
### Step 2 - After sighting potential rescue vessel

#### 12-Gauge Launcher

Break launcher barrel open, insert ORION 12-Gauge HP aerial signal and close launcher.\*

#### 25MM Launcher

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



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

\*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.

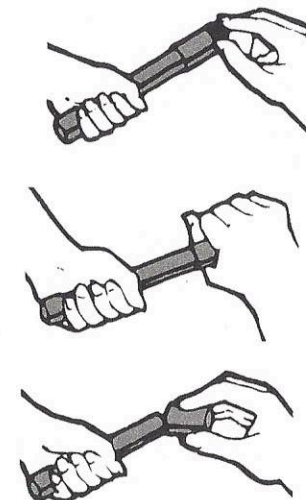
\*\* If a signal does not fire after it has been fully placed in the barrel and the launcher is fully closed, the hammer is pulled back, and the trigger is squeezed, DO NOT IMMEDIATELY OPEN THE LAUNCHER. While rare, a hang-fire (delayed launches after squeezing the trigger) can be very dangerous. Point the launcher overboard towards the water, wait at least 5 seconds, then open launcher and replace signal, repeat Step 2.

**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 red cap.
2. Twist red cap, remove and save to ignite flare. Point away from face and body. Aim downward.
3. In a downward motion, strike button on top of flare with abrasive surface on red cap. Hold burning flare over side of boat. Do not wave overhead.



**CAUTION: THESE ARE NOT TOYS – LAUNCHERS FIRE EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS AND FLAMMABLE EMERGENCY SIGNAL FLARES. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. NEVER POINT LAUNCHER AT A PERSON. NEVER STORE OR CARRY LAUNCHER LOADED. FOR EMERGENCY SIGNALING ONLY. IT IS ILLEGAL TO IGNITE/FIRE DISTRESS SIGNALS IN ANON-DISTRESS SITUATION. FLARE LAUNCHERS AND AERIAL SIGNALS ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE USED AS WEAPONS. FLARE LAUNCHERS USED FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN EMERGENCY SIGNALING MAY SUBJECT USER TO CIVIL OR CRIMINAL ACTION, INCLUDING UNDER STATE FIRE ARM LAWS. STORE IN A SAFE, SECURE, DRY LOCATION.**

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Orion US Coast Guard Approved signals are produced and independently tested to the specifications provided by the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 46, Part 160. Signal performance, however, can be negatively impacted if such signals are not stored properly.

It is important that signals be stored in a secure, safe, dry area of your boat, and should be removed during periods of extended storage. All signals and launchers should be inspected at least once annually for damage caused by exposure to moisture or mishandling. **STORE LAUNCHER UNLOADED.**



## 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.

## Safety Check List

Before you go boating this season be sure you check all of the following items and call your local Power Squadron or Coast Guard Auxiliary for a Vessel Safety Check List.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>COAST GUARD APPROVED FLARES</b>
	Always carry aerials and handheld. Replace expired flares.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FIRE EXTINGUISHER</b>
	When required: Must be USCG Approved. Marine Type in good, serviceable condition, properly charged. Correct number aboard for the size and type of vessel.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>LIFE JACKETS</b>
	Must be Coast Guard approved. One wearable life jacket for each person aboard and a throwable device when required; correct size, condition and readily accessible. (The Coast Guard recommends always wearing a life jacket when underway. Children under 13 life jacket must be worn) Whistle for each vest.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FIRST AID KITS</b>
	Based on how and where you boat choose a kit that will handle most minor emergencies.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SOUND SIGNALING DEVICES</b>
	All vessels are required to carry a sound signaling device. Whistles, air horns and replacement air, should be aboard all boats. Required in fog and can be used for signaling bridges, and as an emergency signaling device.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>ANCHOR AND ANCHOR LINE</b>
	Replace worn lines. Lines should be at least 5 to 7 times the depth of the water. Use anchor chain to attach anchor to line.

**ORION**  
The Brightest Name in Safety

## Instructions for Flare Use, Storage, & inspection

**Remember,  
Flares Expire  
42 Months After  
Manufacture Date...**

**Check  
Your Flare  
Dates  
Every  
Season!**