


## Sharing of Lessons Learnt from a Review of a Surf Life Saving Accident or Incident

<b>Accident Name</b>	IRB Crewperson Injury
<b>Accident Date</b>	4th of September 2022
<b>Location</b>	Canterbury
<b>Description of the accident/incident</b>	
<p>In early September as our volunteer surf lifeguards started returning to training and jumping back into the IRB we had a surf lifeguard taking part in an organised IRB crewpersons training session with their SLSC on their home beach. This member was a trainee crewperson with an experienced IRB driver when they approached a small ½ metre broken wave, the crewperson’s right foot slipped from where it was resting on the fuel bladder, slipping back and becoming wedged between the side pontoon and the floorboard. The driver wasn’t aware of where the crewperson’s right foot was and it appears they landed after going over the wave and her ankle has become twisted and trapped between the floorboard and the side pontoon.</p>	
<b>Outcome</b>	
<p>The crewperson suffered a fracture to her fibula. (A broken ankle).</p>	
<b>Causes (Immediate, Underlying, Root Cause)</b>	
<p>The crewperson wasn’t specifically instructed as to where to put her right foot before going out onto the water in the IRB.</p> <p>The crewperson’s right ankle got caught in an awkward position and with the force of going over a wave something had to give and sadly this was the crewperson’s right ankle.</p>	
<b>Relevant Photo’s</b>	
<p>Although there will be some variations this is the preferred right-foot positioning</p>	
	
<p><b>IRB Instruction Manual – Page 47</b></p>	

*In it for life*



FINANCIAL SERVICES



**Lessons Learned**

Surf Life Saving New Zealand is currently carrying out testing as to the best foot strap set-up that is used for the crewpersons' position, additionally, to that, there is work being undertaken with urgency around best techniques instruction videos for trainees as well as Instructors this is being led by the SLSNZ Education Team.

**Corrective Actions and suggestions moving forwards**

- On Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> of September a Safety Alert was sent out to all Surf Lifesaving Club's, IRB Instructors, and Examiners that they must be very clear with trainees about the preferred safe IRB Crewing Position along with appropriate pages from the SLSNZ IRB Instruction Manual (as per the photo above).
- Continue to progress with urgency the in safe technique videos

**We are about continuous improvement and a no-blame culture, Surf Life Saving New Zealand's plan to share learnings and decision-making examples from actual incidents and accidents that our members have experienced, to avoid avoidable accidents.**