

CONVERTING A SCBA INTO A HARNESS

Once the rescuing firefighters arrive at the location of the unconscious firefighter, the first action should be to convert the distressed firefighter's SCBA into a harness. This action will provide the RIT members with a secure grip of the unconscious firefighter. This will greatly assist the RIT members in dragging the unconscious firefighter by the shoulder straps of the SCBA. When this technique is completed, the SCBA will not come off the unconscious member when he/she is being pulled by the shoulder straps. To convert the SCBA into a harness:

- Unbuckle the waist belt of the SCBA.
- Fully loosen both halves of the waist belt.
- Take one half of the waist belt and put behind the unconscious firefighter, and bring it up between his/her legs.
- Take the other half of the waist belt and bring it in front of the unconscious firefighter, and connect it to the other half of the waist belt.
- The waist belt is now connected between the trapped firefighter's legs. Tighten these straps as necessary. (See Figure A)



Figure A