

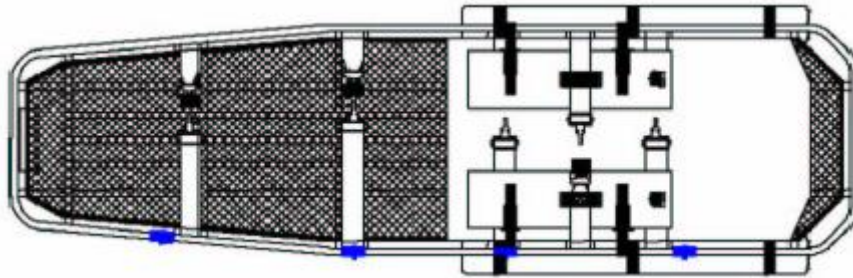


Stokes Litter

A.2 Stokes Litter

A.2.a Application

The stokes litter (ridged or folding) is a mobile transportation device designed to safely transport non-ambulatory personnel onboard a Division rescue vessel for the application. The basic stokes litter is used for surface operations only and should not be used for hoisting operations from Great Salt Lake.



A.2.b Flotation Characteristics

When the litter is configured in accordance with the Maintenance Procedure Cards it will float face-up at a 45-degree angle with the foot end submerged. The top 18 to 24 inches at the head end of the litter will be above the surface of the water. The stokes litter is self-righting

WARNING - PATIENTS WEARING BOYANT GARMENTS, SUCH AS EXPOSURE SUITS ORE PFD'S WILL AFFECT AND POSSIBLY NEGATE THE FLOTATION AND SELF-RIGHTING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LITTER. DILIGENT ATTENTION TO FLOTATION CHARACTERISTIC CHANGES WHEN PATIENTS ARE SECURED IN THE LITTER MUST BE MAINTAINED.

WARNING - THE FOLLOWING IN-WATER PATIENT RESTRAINT PROCEDURE MUST BE TRAINED PRIOR TO USE. CREW COORDINATION BETWEEN THE SWIMMER AND DECK CREW IS CRITICAL TO EVOLUTION SUCCESS. RECURRENT TRAINING OF THIS PROCEDURE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

NOTE – Tending lines and hoisting sling cables must be kept from interfering with patient restraint straps. The restraint straps shall be disconnected and secured to the side of the litter prior to lowering the litter to the water surface. The flotation pad straps shall be secured to the litter.

NOTE – When securing restraint straps, difficulty may be encountered with patients wearing buoyant garments. Buoyant garments are not to be removed; instead place as much slack in the restraint strap as possible and attempt to connect the buckle.

WARNING – IF THE PATIENT IS SECURED TO A BACKBOARD OR SPINAL IMMOBILIZATION DEVICE, DO NOT REMOVE IT.

A.2.c In-Water Patient Restraint

Use the following procedure to secure a patient in the litter while in the water.

- Remove the litter from the cab of Rescue One
- Check to confirm flotation straps are secure and in good working order.
- Disconnect restraining straps.
- Deploy the litter in the water with the use of a tow line.
- Guide the patient into the litter with a collar or equipment tow.
- Secure the patient to the litter using restraining straps.
- Pull the litter towards the swim platform of Rescue One using the tow line.
- Retrieve litter and patient from water.

A.2.d Configuration

The DVO is responsible for ensuring that the stokes litter is maintained and configured properly.

A.2.e Flotation Kit Requirements

The flotation kit assembly shall be installed for operations from Division rescue vessels.

A.2.f Helicopter Hoisting

The stokes litter carried aboard Rescue One is not authorized for helicopter hoists and shall not be used for that purpose.

A.2.g Maintenance and Repair

Salt water rapidly degrades and/or corrodes stokes litters and associated components. If stokes litters are used, they must be thoroughly rinsed after the completion of the mission. Maintenance

requirements can be found on the applicable Maintenance Procedure Cards. Repairs are limited to attached component replacement. Structural repairs to the litter frame are not authorized at the Division level. Structural repairs may be accomplished by the manufacturer.

A.2.h Inspection

The stokes litter should be inspected quarterly as well as post-mission. It should also be thoroughly rinsed post mission.