

Introduction

The Chrysalis Rescue Stretcher is designed and built for both horizontal and vertical lifting. The compact roll-up design makes it ideal for industrial sites, mine rescue and confined space rescue.

The Chrysalis is manufactured using highly durable materials. The base is constructed from a tough, pliable sheet which when wrapped around a patient, gives a rigid spine to the stretcher.

The outer cover is PVC coated Nylon to resist abrasion and tearing whilst being dragged.

Webbing is colour-coded for quick assembly and use. When laid flat the stretcher rolls up easily to fit into a back pack. The stretcher is stored in a carry-bag for ease of transportation and storage when not in use.

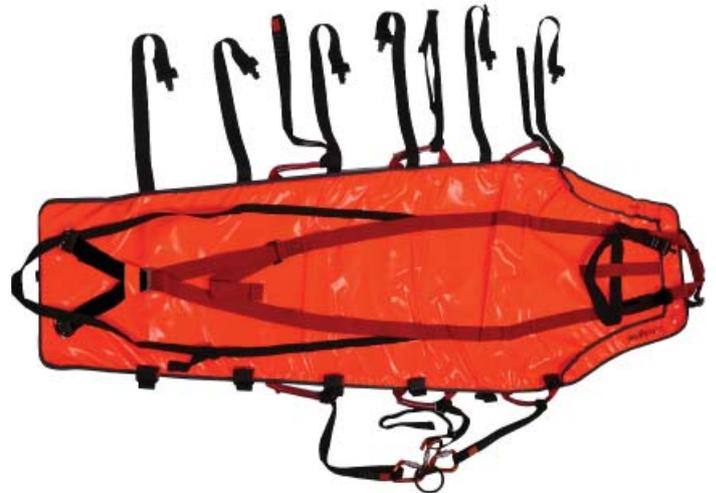


Preparing the stretcher for use

Remove the stretcher from the bag, release the restraining strap buckle and unroll the stretcher to its full length. To prevent the stretcher from rolling up again, tighten the clinchstrap at the head end.

Before placing the patient on the stretcher, release all the buckles and lay the tapes out flat, as shown opposite.

Lay the casualty in the stretcher with the shoulders approximately level with the uppermost red carry loops.



MS01 - Chrysalis Stretcher

Securing the casualty

The casualty is secured by an internal full body harness. Pass the red harness straps between the legs to the chest area. Connect the black with orange fleck shoulder straps to the chest straps, adjust to a comfortable position and tighten, making sure there are no twists.

Place the casualty's feet in the footloop (if leg injuries are suspected do not place the footloop around the injured leg). Adjust the loop but do not overtighten.

The long black tape passes under the arch of the feet of the patient. This tape should be firm but not tight when connected. Should any injury prevent the internal harness and footloop from being attached around the patient, alternative security should be used to ensure the patient is unable to move within the stretcher.

The headband may also be employed although utmost care is advised when dealing with head, neck or spinal injuries. The use of a cervical collar is recommended in conjunction with the head restraint strap.

Fold the black cross-over straps over the stretcher, moving the buckles to almost the end of the straps. Starting at the head end, attach the buckle to the opposite side then by lifting the side of the stretcher, gently tighten the buckle so that the stretcher pulls up around the patient. Work down the length of the stretcher repeating the above procedure. When complete check all cross over straps are firm but not too causing the patient pain on the injuries or undue discomfort.

Releasing one cross-over strap could cause the stretcher to flex at that point and should be avoided in normal rescue operations. This can however be used to advantage in restricted access environments such as caves and mines where the stretcher has to be negotiated around tight bends.

Before moving the stretcher, check again that all securing systems have been put in place and that the patient is comfortable and secure. Constantly monitor and reassure the patient who is likely to be distressed at the lack of mobility provided by the stretcher.

Securing Straps:

RED:	Lifting/load bearing points
BLACK:	Fastening & restraint straps
BLACK with Orange fleck	Harness closing straps



Carrying the stretcher

The stretcher may only be lifted by the red carry handles at the edge of the stretcher, with another at the head end solely for dragging through confined spaces. These loops are load-bearing and pass completely under the stretcher.

At no time should the stretcher be lifted or supported by any loop other than the red handles. The carrying party may use shoulder slings tied or connected with a karabiner to the red handles.

When lifting the stretcher, all the red handles must be supported evenly. Do not lift the stretcher at the head end as the stretcher may flex causing neck injury.

Lifting and lowering the stretcher

The stretcher should be lifted in the horizontal mode wherever possible. The casualty can suffer further distress if lifted vertically.

The stretcher may be rigged for a horizontal lift using the slings provided. These are attached as shown.

Lifting Slings

These are labelled "HEAD", "MIDDLE" and "FEET", according to their position on the stretcher

This gives the stretcher a horizontal or slightly head up position when loaded. The adjustable slings on the middle handles should be clipped into the lifting karabiner and adjusted to take any flex out of the stretcher when lifting horizontally.

Vertical lifting is used for extraction through narrow spaces and is achieved by securing the lifting rope directly to the red handle above the head. A safety rope may also be fastened to this point for extra security.

A control rope may be attached at the foot end of the stretcher to assist with the haul.

Note

This stretcher must only be used by trained personnel. If neck or back injuries are suspected the use of medical immobilisers should be required. This stretcher is not equipped with immobilisers.

Care and maintenance

Always check your stretcher before use for damage or excessive wear and tear. If stitching becomes frayed or damaged the stretcher should be retired. This is especially important on load-bearing slings and handles.

Brushing down periodically with luke warm water and a mild detergent will prolong the life of the stretcher.

Do not store wet and avoid contact with acids, alkalis and solvents.

Do not tumble dry the cover.

Store away from direct heat, sunlight and dust

