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The Half-Sked



This product was developed to address the need to evacuate a patient through narrow passages that require bending the injured person to go around a corner. It is half the length of a conventional Sked stretcher and the same width. The Half-Sked has two permanently attached cross straps to secure it around the upper body of the patient. It has groin straps which prevent the downward movement of the patient in the device. The Half-Sked has two sewn on handles to facilitate manipulation through the small narrow spaces. It also has a "stamped out" opening which serves as a hand hold, and yellow webbing with PVC tubing that extends 10 inches above the "cut out" handle and serves as a tow handle. The buckles are plastic and adjustable on both ends, allowing for easy adjustment from either side, easy replacement of buckles and more flexibility in positioning of the buckles during use. The Half-Sked will accommodate patients whose spine is immobilized in an OSS or other suitable short immobilizer as well as those who are not packaged in an immobilization device. Skedco recommends that the use of an immobilizing device be considered even when there is no evidence of spinal injury, to protect the patient from irregularities on the surface where the rescue occurs, which could cause unnecessary localized pressure on the patient's back and corresponding discomfort.

NOTE: The Half-Sked comes to you rolled in the same manner as a full sized Sked stretcher, so that it will fit in the shipping box. Skedco recommends that you immediately reverse-roll the device to make it lay flat, then roll it from side to side, with the label in, for storage. The result will be a four foot long tube with a webbing handle near the center, which can be used for easy carrying. When rolled in this manner the Half-Sked will retain a natural curl to the shape most advantageous for use during a rescue when it is unrolled for use.

INSTRUCTIONS

Packaging the Patient

If you are using an Oregon Spine Splint or other device to immobilize the patient prior to extrication, be sure to follow the instructions provided by the manufacturer of the device. After the immobilization is completed the patient may be moved onto the Half-Sked in a number of ways, which may be dictated by the environment and physical condition of the patient. Skedco suggests any of the following methods, with constant consideration for the safety and comfort of the victim:

- If rescuer access is available on the end (head and foot) of the patient, unroll the Half-Sked and position it above the head or below the buttocks. Carefully drag the patient onto the Half-Sked.
- If access is available on the sides, log-roll the patient to one side and slide the device as far beneath the patient as possible. Lower the patient into the supine (face-up) position and slide him to the center while taking care not to bend his body laterally.

When properly positioned, the patient is centered and the lower end of the Half-Sked is just below the buttocks, extending downward just far enough to allow the groin straps to be lifted vertically in a straight line. The cross straps are fastened first, then the groin straps. Using the cut out hand-hold, drag the patient to safety. If the patient is short enough that the upper cross strap is over the throat, you can criss-cross the body straps to lower the point where they cross the body.

Extrication

Movement of the packaged patient through confined spaces may be dictated by the environment. If necessary, lift the patient at the lower end and the head simultaneously and inch him forward a few inches at a time while lying on your stomach in extremely cramped areas. Although this process is difficult, it can be done in environments where other extrication techniques will not work.

When going around corners, use the handles by the shoulders and hips to roll the patient onto his side, taking advantage of the natural bending ability of the body at the hips. After negotiating the corner, when the patient's legs are completely clear, extend and straighten his legs. Only when the legs are straight, roll the patient back into the supine position.

When you reach an area that allows the use of a full sized stretcher, place your immobilized patient into the full size stretcher and continue the evacuation. If it is necessary to remove the Half-Sked to allow proper packaging in the full sized stretcher, place the patient onto the stretcher while still secured in the Half-Sked, then carefully loosen the Half-Sked and slide it out from under the patient.

The Half-Sked is not a hoisting device. NEVER HOIST A VICTIM WITHOUT USING A DEVICE APPROVED FOR THAT PURPOSE. For hoisting a patient in the vertical position, place a full body harness around the patient and the Oregon Spine Splint. Refasten the Half-Sked around the patient and fasten the haul line to the harness. Secure the top end of the Half-Sked to the haul line and hoist the patient vertically taking care not to move the legs laterally or posterously. Hoisting should only be done if there is no other way to extricate the patient or if the patient is in immediate danger of death.

IMPORTANT WARNINGS!

- *These instructions should not be considered a substitute for appropriate training by a qualified instructor.*
- *The Half-Sked is not a spinal immobilization device.*
- *While the Half-Sked is useful for extrication from spaces where a full sized stretcher cannot be used, issues relating to proper handling of spinal injuries must not be ignored. When using a Half-Sked for a spinal injured patient, be careful not to move the legs laterally or bend the patient more than 90 degree anteriorly at the hips.*
- *The Half-Sked has no approved tie-in points for hoisting, and the plastic buckles are not suitable for hoisting. Do not attach hoisting mechanisms to the cut-in or sewn-in handles. Skedco recommends that, if possible, the patient be transferred to a Sked stretcher or other stretcher which is designed for hoisting when such an activity is required. When such a transfer is not possible due to environmental considerations Skedco recommends use of an appropriate NFPA rated harness, fitted around the patient and the Oregon Spine splint, which results in the patient and the immobilizer being lifted as a single unit. You should also attach the Half-Sked to your haul line with webbing and a carabiner.*