

Power-Pro Stretcher

Supersedes: 03-01-16
Effective: 06-15-16

Boston EMS has transitioned to the Stryker **Power-PRO™** wheeled stretcher, which has a battery-powered hydraulic lift system intended to help reduce the effort required by the operator to raise and lower the cot. The stretcher is rated to a maximum capacity of 700 lb. (sum of the patient, mattress, and any accessory weight).

Safety Precautions and Restraint Straps

Once on a wheeled-cot, a patient should never be left unattended. The patient shall be properly secured, using all required straps. Buckle the restraint straps across the patient's chest/shoulders, waist, and legs to minimize horizontal, latitudinal, and rotational movement.

Only restraint straps approved for use with the Power-Pro Stretcher shall be used, and they must be attached to the stretcher in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Boston EMS utilizes X-Restraints which are compliant with SAE J3027 (Ambulance Litter Integrity, Retention, and Patient Restraint) requirements. The proper attachment locations are marked on the stretcher, and each set of straps has an illustration on the tag showing whether they are leg, thigh, or waist straps.





The mattress on the stretcher comes in two pieces to accommodate the shoulder straps. While this may make it slightly more inconvenient to put a sheet on the entire mattress, the design and location of the shoulder straps affords the maximum crash safety for the patient. A sheet can be placed on the main part of the mattress, and a towel can go on the head-rest / pillow portion.

Patients that are a potential management issue and/or flight risk for whatever reason, but do not require restraint may be secured using a “BuckleGarde” or similar type device. BuckleGarde is a security cover that surrounds the release mechanism of the seatbelt, deterring the patient from actuating the push button and releasing the buckle. If the patient attempts to release the safety buckle, the device is intended to introduce enough of a delay for other interventions to be taken. Personnel must have immediate access to a pair of scissors, key, or other device to remove the BuckleGarde should the patient seize or need to be repositioned.

Whenever moving a loaded stretcher, especially on an incline or uneven surface, use a minimum of two operators to manipulate the cot. Position an operator at the foot end and one at the head end of the cot at all times when rolling the cot with a patient on it. Approach door sills and/or other low obstacles squarely and lift each set of wheels over the obstacle separately. Transporting the cot sideways can cause the cot to tip. Transporting the cot in a lowered position, head or foot end first, minimizes the potential of a cot tip.

When the stretcher is stationary on a flat surface, such as at a hospital triage area, at least one member shall remain with the patient to control the stretcher and prevent it

from moving or tipping over. In such cases, whenever possible, the stretcher should be buttressed against a wall for additional support.

Do not apply the optional wheel locks while a patient is on the cot. Wheel locks are only intended to help prevent the cot from rolling while unattended and to aid in patient transfer.

Battery Charger

When the SMRT Pak is fully charged and ready for use, the charger indicator LED turns to solid green. For extended storage, the SMRT Pak should remain on the SMRT Charger to trickle charge and ensure that the SMRT Pak remains fully charged.

SMRT Charger Indicator LED	Status
GREEN (flashing)	SMRT Charger is charging the SMRT Pak. The optimum charge time is two hours.
GREEN (solid)	SMRT Pak is fully charged and ready for use.
AMBER (flashing)	SMRT Pak temperature delay. The SMRT Charger is waiting for the SMRT Pak to reach an allowable temperature range of 43°F to 88°F.
AMBER (solid)	SMRT Pak error

Ambulances equipped with a Power-LOAD mounting system automatically charge the SMRT Pak battery when the cot is locked into Power-LOAD in the transport position. The cot battery LED indicator will momentarily flash green to signify that it is charging.

Changing Battery at the Start of Each Shift

Each stretcher is issued with two fully charged batteries and an AC Charger for the satellite station. Like all batteries, they begin to lose their charge when removed from the charger for an extended period. Because of this, it is not recommended that the spare battery be carried in the ambulance. Instead, the spare battery should remain in the charger when not in use.

At the beginning of each shift, a fully charged battery (indicated by solid green LED light on the charger) should be inserted into the cot, and the alternate battery then placed in the charger. After any battery change, and periodically throughout the shift, members can push the small power button located above the +/- buttons to check the battery power. If the battery pack indicator level is GREEN, the battery does not need to be changed. A SMRT Pak that is in good working condition and is fully charged provides up to 15-20 “calls” with a 250 pound patient.

If the indicator begins to flash AMBER, the battery should be changed as soon as possible. A flashing AMBER light means there are approximately 15 up/down movements remaining. Depending on unit location and status, crews will be directed to their station or Materials Management to retrieve a fully charged battery, or will be met

by a Field Supervisor or Tango Unit that carry spare batteries in their vehicle. Even if the battery were to completely run out of power, the stretcher can still be operated in the manual mode.

Unloading the Stretcher

Unloading an occupied cot from a vehicle requires a minimum of two (2) trained operators. One or two operators can lift from the foot end of the cot. Stryker recommends that both operators are at the foot end to reduce the load on each operator.

To avoid injury, verify that the safety bar has engaged the safety hook before removing the cot completely from the patient compartment. Do not press the extend (+) button until the safety bar has engaged the safety hook.



Manual Override

In the event of loss of electrical function, the cot is equipped with a manual override to allow manual operation of the product until electrical functionality is restored. You can use the red manual back-up release handle to raise or lower the cot. The red manual back-up release handle is located along the patient left side of the lower lift bar at the foot end of the cot.

Stretcher Loading

Loading an occupied cot into a vehicle requires a minimum of two (2) trained operators. One or two operators can lift from the foot end of the cot. Stryker recommends that both operators are at the foot end to reduce the load on each operator.

The stretcher is equipped with a STEER-LOCK System that locks the head-end caster into a straight position preventing cot drift when putting the stretcher into the

ambulance. This can be especially useful if the ambulance is parked on an uneven surface.

The head section telescopes from a first position suitable for loading the cot into the ambulance to a second position retracted within the litter frame. When retracted, the cot can roll in any direction on the caster wheels even in the lowest position, allowing for improved mobility and maneuverability.

Do not attempt to load the cot into the patient compartment with the head section retracted. Loading the cot with the head section retracted may cause the stretcher to tip or not engage properly in the cot fastener.