	Cincinnati Fire Department Fire Training Supplement DRILL BOOK	SECTION #4 Ladder Company Operations
Date: January 2006	TOPIC TITLE: Stokes Basket	Total # of Pages: 3
Section #: 4		Topic #: 1

TOPIC #1 STOKES BASKET

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

1. Junkin stokes basket
2. Adjustable litter bridle
3. 2-Wool blankets
4. 1- 40 foot, one inch webbing

JUNKIN STOKES BASKET

The Junkin Stokes Basket used by the CFD is constructed with a high density polyethylene shell, supported by a stainless steel outer rail. Two bottom cross struts are recessed into the plastic to provide side to side rigidity.



The plastic bed sits on the bottom rail leaving the top rail free for carrying or attaching rigging/lifting systems. The basket passes 1200lb load test and is large enough to accept full spine boards. Two wool blankets should be stored inside the basket in a way that will keep them dry and ready for use. These blankets can be used to warm, protect and pad the patient during movement.


The Junkin stokes basket comes with four cross body straps (seat belts) used to secure the patient inside the basket. It also has a lower foot plate with adjustable straps that allow the patient to be placed in the basket with his head as close to the top rail as possible. Once the patient is placed correctly in the basket the foot plate adjustment straps are tightened till the plate is tight to the patient's feet. The CFD has opted to increase patient safety by adding a webbing based restraint system that "laces" the patient into the basket providing complete control over patient movement. The cross body straps, foot plate, 1 inch webbing and the blankets keep the patient from sliding in the basket during movement.

Adjustable Litter bridle

The stokes basket should be carried with the lifting bridle attached in the "horizontal" lifting position. This 4 point litter bridle has the ability to independently adjust the top and bottom leg segments so the basket can be leveled before lifting. The bridle has four web segments that terminate with a large locking carabineer. The four web segments are arranged into two pairs each pair colored to match, one set orange and one set grey. These colored pairs should be attached so that the two orange straps are attached to the foot end and the two grey straps are attached to the head end. When attaching the carabineers to the Stokes Basket they should clip around the top rail and go between two uprights with the carabineer opening or gate facing into the basket. This places them in a position where they won't slide or become accidentally opened.



Carabineer hooked between uprights, so it can't slide, with the gate facing in toward the patient

	Cincinnati Fire Department Fire Training Supplement DRILL BOOK	SECTION #4 Ladder Company Operations
Date: January 2006	TOPIC TITLE: Stokes Basket	Total # of Pages: 3
Section #: 4		Topic #: 1

40- foot, one inch webbing

The rescue community has determined that seat belt cross straps are not enough protection for a patient in an elevated position.. The seat belt clips do not have an absolute locking cam and due to rust, dirt or corrosion can come loose during a fall or violent movement. It has also been noted that a patient can inadvertently or on purpose, push the unlocking button and release the straps. The Cincinnati Fire Department has decided to follow the national standard and add an additional patient restraint system to the seat belt cross straps already in place. This system uses approximately 40 feet of 1 inch webbing, laced across the patient in a way that prevents accidental release and provides a positive restraint for the patient.

The process for securing a patient into the Stokes basket begins with the application of the cross body straps and foot plate. The patient is placed in the basket so the chest cross straps are placed over the patients sternum and nipple area forming an “X”. The other two straps should cross over the upper and lower leg area. Once the patient is secured with the seat belt cross straps, the foot plate should be adjusted as to rest against the patients feet.



Foot plate tight against the patients feet




Cross Body straps placed correctly on patient.

The 40 feet of webbing should be stored “pre tied” to the basket. This process starts with one end of the webbing tied with a clove hitch and safety at the head end of the basket. The webbing is then run down the side of the basket, between the top and bottom rails, a point at the bottom or foot end of the basket and tied off with another clove hitch. The excess webbing can be carried, rolled up, in the foot off the basket for use when needed.



Webbing tied in a “clove hitch” at the head end of the stokes basket

	Cincinnati Fire Department Fire Training Supplement DRILL BOOK	SECTION #4 Ladder Company Operations
Date: January 2006	TOPIC TITLE: Stokes Basket	Total # of Pages: 3
Section #: 4		Topic #: 1

Once the webbing is pre-tied in this manner it will be very quick to place in service. The patient is placed in the basket and strapped in as discussed above. The working end of the webbing is then brought from its stowed position at the feet and passed between the two rails, it then crosses over the patient and is wrapped around the length of webbing running down the side of the basket and brought back to the working side of the stokes. As the webbing is woven across the patient it is important to pull it tight and keep it tight each time it crosses from one side to the other. The process continues in an over and back type operation till the webbing is across the patient's chest. Care must be given so the webbing does not cross the patient's neck or throat. If there is a lot of webbing left over when the patients chest has been reached you can continue the process working down the patient's body toward their feet.



During the lacing process the webbing is brought between the rails and around the upright posts.



The webbing is brought around the first post and crosses over to the other side where it is wrapped and pulled tight



Webbing, woven through the far side piece, then pulled tight

When the lacing operation has used up all the available webbing the end is tied around the nearest rail of the basket with a clove hitch and safety. No matter what type of belts and straps we use to secure the patient into the basket, their safety is our responsibility and should be our number one priority.

WOOL BLANKET

There should be two wool blankets stored in the basket in a way that prevents them from getting wet or dirty while riding on the apparatus. These blankets are to be used to provide warmth and protection to the patient in severe weather and to fill voids around the patient during the packaging and securing process.

