	<b>Cincinnati Fire Department Fire Training Supplement DRILL BOOK</b>	<b>SECTION #1 General Firefighting</b>
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## TOPIC #1: HMD SKED Rescue Stretcher

### 1. System Description


- The HMD SKED system is a flexible stretcher that enables rescuers to quickly packaged injured patients and drag, rather than carry, them to an ambulance or treatment area. The SKED can be quickly deployed by two firefighters, making it ideal for mass casualty incidents. It is also easily decontaminated, making it a good tool for hazardous materials responses.
- Two (2) HMD SKEDs are carried on each engine and ladder company. The SKED is rolled and stored two to a bag.
- The HMD SKED carried by engine and ladder companies is yellow in color and has different rigging features than the orange SKEDs carried on heavy rescue companies. The yellow SKED is not suitable for rope rescue or vertical lifting of the patient.



### 2. System Components

The HMD SKED system consists of three main components:

- **SKED:** A yellow 3' x 8' sheet of polyethylene plastic that forms the main part of the stretcher. The SKED weighs 11 pounds and can be used in any environment up to 450°F. The SKED features pre-drilled holes for straps and hand-holds.
- **Straps:** There are three color-coded straps that complete the SKED rescue system:
  - o **Red Straps:** Used for dragging the SKED over the ground. The center of the red towing strap has a loop for attaching a rope using a carabiner. On each side is a tubular plastic handle, which allows a rescuer on each side to grip it comfortably and drag the SKED.
  - o **Black Straps:** Used to secure the patient in the SKED. These are similar to backboard straps and attach to the SKED in much the same fashion.
  - o **White Straps:** Used to raise the foot end of the SKED to prevent the patient from sliding out.
- **Carrying Bag:** Carries up to two (2) rolled SKED systems

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### 3. Loading a Patient into the SKED

Pull on both white foot straps to raise the foot end of the SKED about 12-14 inches. This will create a “shelf” for the patient’s feet. On level surfaces, this is enough to prevent the patient from sliding downward and possibly off from the SKED.



Upon reaching the patient, place the SKED next to him. Unbuckle the center and upper cross straps. The yellow SKED should lay flat.

Roll the patient into the center of the SKED and fasten the ends of the black straps, similar to backboarding a patient. Adjust the straps to pull the sides of the SKED up around the patient.

### 4. Moving a Patient with the SKED


The SKED is designed to be dragged along the ground with a patient inside. The red straps near the patient’s head provide tubular plastic handles for one or two rescuers to drag with. Some users may find it useful to extend these straps with a piece of rope or webbing. The center of the red towing strap has a loop for attaching a rope using a carabiner.

Four additional red straps are provided with each SKED. These may be affixed to the handholds located along the long side of the stretcher, providing additional grip locations while transporting a patient up hills or on uneven ground. Simply loop the red strap through handhold hole and form a girth hitch.

It is important to note that the SKED is not designed for carrying a patient, but rather for dragging. A patient can be lifted in the SKED, but the stretcher will not provide any rigidity. Lifting will be similar to carrying a patient on a bed sheet. While appropriate for many patients, it is not recommended for patients with suspected neck or back injuries.



The yellow HMD SKED should never be used for rope rescue or any type of vertical lifting. The SKED can be attached to ground-based haul systems for moving patients over terrain.

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### 5. Disinfecting the SKED

The SKED can be decontaminated using the common decontamination methods. If exposed to bodily fluids, the stretched should be decontaminated with an approved disinfectant such as bleach. Straps should be removed and decontaminated separately.

If the SKED has been contaminated with hazardous materials, the stretcher should be decontaminated through the incident decon line. If the stretcher has deep scratches on the under side from dragging over extremely rough areas it should be pressure washed after being decontaminated.

When the stretcher is dry, it can be rolled up with clean or new straps, and stored in the provided storage bag.

