

= Lifeline (Stargate Atlantis) =

" Lifeline " is the second episode of the fourth season , and the 62nd episode overall , of the science fiction television series Stargate Atlantis . The episode first aired in the United States on October 5 , 2007 on the Sci Fi Channel , and subsequently aired October 16 on Sky One in the United Kingdom . It was written by executive producer Carl Binder , and directed by Martin Wood . The episode is a continuation of the previous episode , " Adrift " , following Colonel Sheppard and his team as they perform a mission to steal a Zero Point Module from the Asurans . It was described by executive producer Joseph Mallozzi as a " big op eppy . "

The episode was considered to be somewhat of a send off to Elizabeth Weir (played by the departing Torri Higginson) . Although Wood was credited for directing , he was occupied with directing the movie Stargate : Continuum , so Andy Mikita did most of the actual directing for the episode . It received slightly lower ratings than " Adrift " , but was still well received .

= = Plot = =

To ensure the mission to steal a Zero Point Module is a success , Dr. McKay (David Hewlett) proposes to use Dr. Weir (Torri Higginson) and her nanites to access the Asuran collective and guide them ; should the Asurans take her over , McKay would activate a kill switch on the nanites , which would also effectively kill Weir . With their experimental jumper ready , Sheppard (Joe Flanigan) leaves Teyla (Rachel Luttrell) in command of Atlantis . The jumper 's hyperdrive works and they arrive over the Asuran homeworld (M7R @-@ 227) . With Weir 's access , Sheppard and Ronon (Jason Momoa) easily steal the Zero Point Module . McKay then finds a code that will cause the Asurans to attack the Wraith and convinces Sheppard to upload a programme to reactivate this dormant code .

McKay initiates an anti @-@ Replicator field to protect them from the Asurans , but Oberoth (David Ogden Stiers) discovers this and sends a wave to override the field . Weir leaves McKay , confronts Oberoth and uses his power to freeze all the Asurans , even tricking him into believing that he has captured the team , all to buy Sheppard enough time to upload the programme . However , Weir struggles to keep Asurans frozen , and when Sheppard finds her just as she loses control , she orders him to leave her behind as the Asurans unfreeze and capture her . The team escapes without Weir , but end up trapped as they lack the power to make it to hyperspace . They are unexpectedly assisted by the Apollo , who have found Atlantis with Colonel Carter 's (Amanda Tapping) help . The Apollo lays down covering fire long enough for the team to land in the fighter bay and carries them back to Atlantis . However , the Apollo is unable to lock onto Doctor Weir and beam her aboard . Now fully powered , Sheppard sends the city to M35 @-@ 117 , a back @-@ up planet , and makes a rough landing onto its ocean . Whilst the team mourns the loss of Weir , McKay regains contact with Stargate Command . Dr. Zelenka (David Nykl) announces that the Asurans have begun their attack against the Wraith , meaning Weir 's sacrifice was not in vain . Carter tells Sheppard that they will miss Weir , though Sheppard vows to find her again .

= = Production = =

" Lifeline " first surfaced in February 2007 . Carl Binder wanted to do a heist episode during the off @-@ season , though the writers had no idea where it would fit in the overall season arc . However , as " Adrift " was written , they realized their heist story flowed naturally from it . Even though Martin Wood was credited for directing the episode , Andy Mikita ended up directing most of it instead , as well as directing parts of " Adrift " ; Wood was directing Stargate : Continuum at the time of filming . Amanda Tapping requested that showrunners Mallozzi and Mullie not give her a big part for the episode , as she was in the Arctic filming for Stargate : Continuum . Another reason that Carter 's appearance was small was that Torri Higginson was still a part of the show , and the producers wanted Carter to be introduced slowly . The episode , as a " third part " , was difficult to write , since the second part (" Adrift ") is a comeback resolve of the first part (" First Strike ") , and the third

part has to " resolve the resolve . " In the writing stages , there was also talk as to whether or not to save the experimental hyperdrive jumper . Eventually it was decided that it would be saved , to keep open the possibility of using it again .

Tapping felt acting on the new show went a little easier when filming Carter scenes with Bill Dow (" Bill Lee ") , with whom she had previously worked on Stargate SG @-@ 1 . She said another factor that made acting on Atlantis easier was the welcoming cast and crew of the series . Tapping 's hair was longer than it was during her time on SG @-@ 1 , and the military approved of the change as long as it was worn up . To save money on visual effects , the crew built set pieces to represent some of the buildings on M7R @-@ 227 and placed them in front of the puddle jumper set . Another measure taken as a substitute to visual effects was to cast mime artists as the frozen Asurans .

While filming Weir guiding the team to find the ZPM , the fact that she can see " everything " without looking at anything was a hard sell for an actor , but with Higginson 's drive in her eyes , this would make the scene more believable for the audience . The scene was not written in the original script . The set for the core room in the Asuran city was the same set as Atlantis ' gate room , though in order to make it look as different as possible , the cameras were placed at angles not usually used for filming in the gate room , such as where they would normally place lights .

= = Reception = =

The episode earned a 1 @.@ 1 household Nielsen rating , which was down by one @-@ tenth of a point or 8 % from " Adrift " . It fell behind ECW on Sci Fi (with a 1 @.@ 2 rating) , Eureka (with a 1 @.@ 4 rating) and Ghost Hunters (with a 1 @.@ 5 rating) . In the United Kingdom , " Lifeline " received 443 @,@ 000 viewers , placing Stargate Atlantis as number six in the top ten broadcasts for Sky One for that week , behind The Simpsons and Prison Break . It was positively received by most critics . Tory Ireland Mell of IGN rated the episode a " masterful " 10 out of a possible 10 , praising the slow introduction of Carter , rather than having an SG @-@ 1 team member forced into the series , and stated the episode gets the viewer " glued to the television for one hour . " Critical Myth rated the episode 8 out of 10 , stating the episode as " light on plot twists but packs an emotional punch , " and was somewhat critical for the lack of surprises in the episode 's storyline . Brett Love of TV Squad liked the episode 's storyline , and thought Weir 's exit was executed well , despite leaks from the Internet that Weir would be leaving , and compared the scene between her and Oberoth to the confrontations between Neo and Agent Smith from The Matrix film series . However , Love was critical about the absence of Teyla throughout the majority of the episode .