

# SAVIOUR TACTICAL *stretchers*



## Manual and Technical Specifications for the Saviour Tactical Stretcher

## MANUAL AND TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

# Saviour Tactical Stretcher

Publication reference: CIVTACMan Version 4 2023

This Equipment conforms to CE 93/42/EEC Class 1 and is covered by European Council Reg. 2017/745 CLASS 1 DEVICE. This Equipment is registered with the Competent Authority (UK) and confirms to Article 11(5) Annex VII Section 3.

## INTRODUCTION: Saviour Tactical Stretcher

The Saviour Tactical Stretcher is a rapid response stretcher to evacuate casualties safely from hazardous areas. Provision is made for up to six persons carrying and a Head Haul Eyelet which may be used to connect a suitable rope to assist in raising or lowering on steep ground or dragging along low evacuation routes. The Saviour Tactical may be placed directly into a suitable basket stretcher for onward patient transportation if required. Users must be trained and competent in accepted standards and rescue procedures.

The Saviour Tactical may be used to transport the casualty throughout the treatment journey, into the A&E and onwards, as it is x-ray translucent and CT friendly.

Manufactured from materials suitable for harsh environments the Saviour Tactical will not deteriorate during storage but should not be subjected to prolonged exposure (weeks not hours) to strong sunlight. Subject to the recommended inspection and cleaning the Saviour Tactical's skin and fixings will have a 10 year service life. Straps have a service life of 5 years and may be replaced by the user or returned to the manufacturer/distributor for refurbishment.

The contents of this manual should be read and fully understood before use.

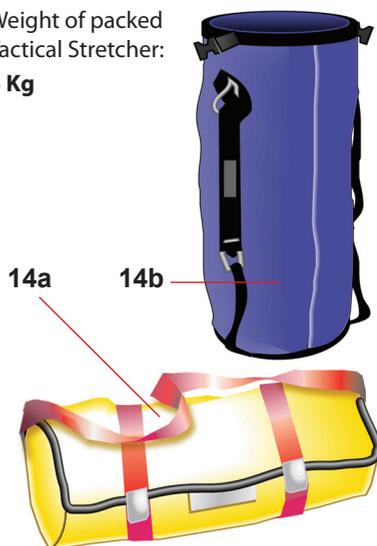
**Incorrect use will reduce the service life of the stretcher and may endanger the casualty.**

## CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

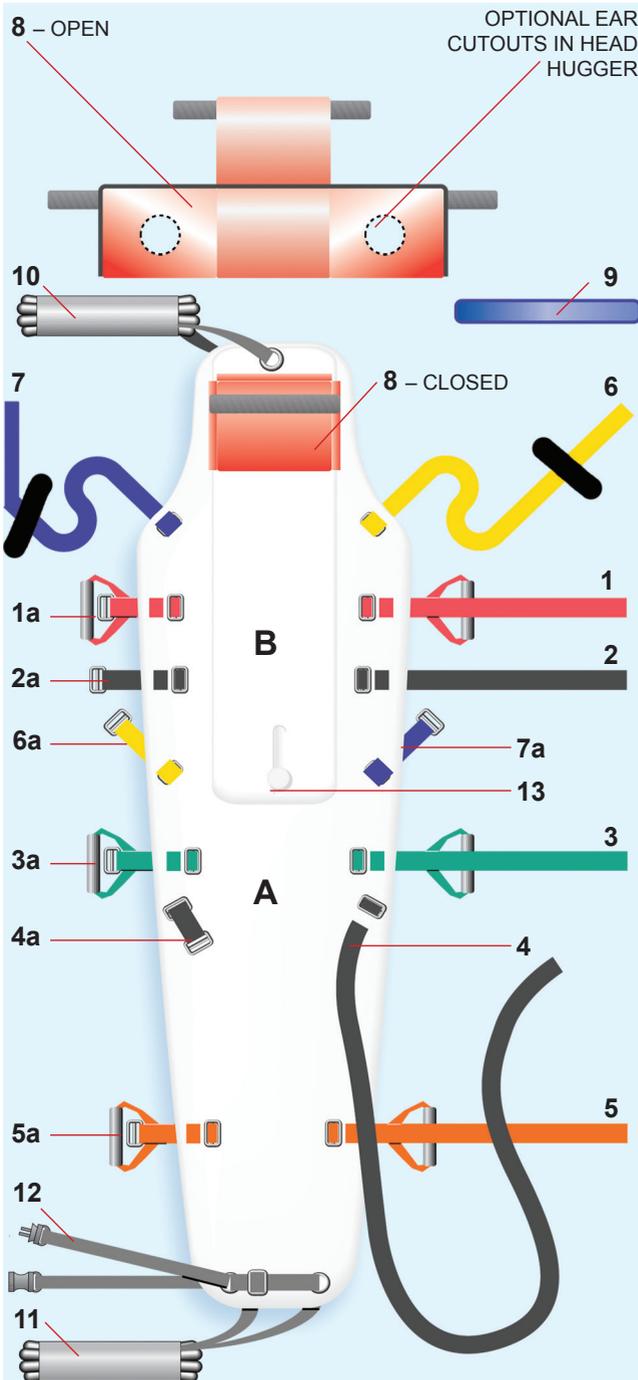
- All closure, carry straps handles and stitching are POLYPROPYLENE
- All buckles and keepers are 316 STAINLESS STEEL
- Main body and inner skin are LDPE
- Head Hugger and Carry Bag are PVC
- Head Haul Eyelet is 316 STAINLESS STEEL and NYLON 66
- Eyelets for Foot Loop are NICKLE PLATED BRASS
- Head Haul Strop is POLYPROPYLENE SUPER TAPE
- Inner Skin retainer and screw is NYLON 66

Packed Carry Bag Dimensions (both):  
**70 cm x 30 cm x 30 cm**

Weight of packed  
Tactical Stretcher:  
**5 Kg**



## IDENTIFICATION OF PARTS LIST



## KEY TO PARTS LIST:

Non-replaceable items

- A. MAIN SKIN
- B. INNER SKIN

Replaceable straps:

1. **Chest strap**  
– closure side with handle
- 1a. **Chest strap**  
– buckle side with handle
2. **Waist strap**  
– closure side
- 2a. **Waist strap**  
– buckle side
3. **Hip strap**  
– closure side with handle
- 3a. **Hip strap**  
– buckle side with handle
4. **Foot loop**  
– closure side
- 4a. **Foot loop**  
– buckle side
5. **Leg strap**  
– closure side with handle
- 5a. **Leg strap**  
– buckle side with handle
6. **Left shoulder strap**  
– with integral wrist cuff
- 6a. **Left shoulder strap**  
– buckle side
7. **Right shoulder strap**  
– with integral wrist cuff
- 7a. **Right shoulder strap**  
– buckle side

Other replaceable items:

8. **Head Hugger**
9. **Chin strap**
- 10 & 11 **Drag straps**  
\*optional extra
12. **Closure strap**
13. **Inner skin retainer**
- 14a **Stretcher carry bag**  
– tube type
- 14b **Stretcher carry bag**  
– rucksack type

## Saviour Tactical Stretcher: **GENERAL NOTES FOR PACKAGING AND STRAPPING**

Below are listed the important points to be considered before packaging and strapping the casualty. The following three pages contain illustrated guides of the sequences for packaging and strapping a casualty into the Saviour Tactical stretcher.

**Any injuries present MUST be taken into account before packaging and transporting a casualty. If neck injuries are present, or suspected, a Cervical collar may be used if desired. Medical devices should be fitted by a suitably qualified person.**

Points to remember:

- Counter bending each end of the stretcher will allow it to lay flat after removing from bag.
- Make sure all straps are laid out to the sides and none are trapped underneath.
- Follow the instructions of the team leader or first aider when rolling the casualty on to the stretcher.
- Follow strapping sequence as described.
- **Do not fit the chin strap unless a Cervical Collar has been fitted. There is a danger of strangulation if fitted without a collar present.**
- When tightening the straps grasp the buckle end in one hand and 'pull and push' to tighten the straps so the casualty is not rolled about. Do not over tighten Chest Strap as this may compromise the casualties breathing.
- The wrist cuffs on straps 6 and 7 may be used to secure the arms of the casualty if required.
- Once all straps have been tightened check them all again to ensure that the casualty is secure. It is important to check that the Leg Loop is secure after the body straps are tightened.
- Tuck in all loose ends to prevent the carry party from tripping over during transporting.

Saviour Tactical Stretcher:

## CASUALTY PACKAGING SEQUENCE

Note: Any injuries present must be taken into account when packaging.

Stretcher Loading:

- All carry handles 200 kg
- Closure straps and buckles 200 kg
- Head haul eyelet 200 kg
- Foot loop 100 kg
- Head haul strop 15 kN
- Overall stretcher rating 200 kg

Packaging the casualty:

- Remove the stretcher from the carry bag and unclip the closure strap.
- Unroll the stretcher, **folding it back on itself** so that it lies flat alongside the casualty.
- Lay the stretcher beside the casualty with the head hugger slightly higher than the casualty's head, making sure all the straps are clear, (see Figure. 1).
- Log roll the casualty onto the stretcher. Slide the casualty diagonally up so that they are central on the stretcher, with the casualty's head centred on the head hugger. (see Figure. 2).

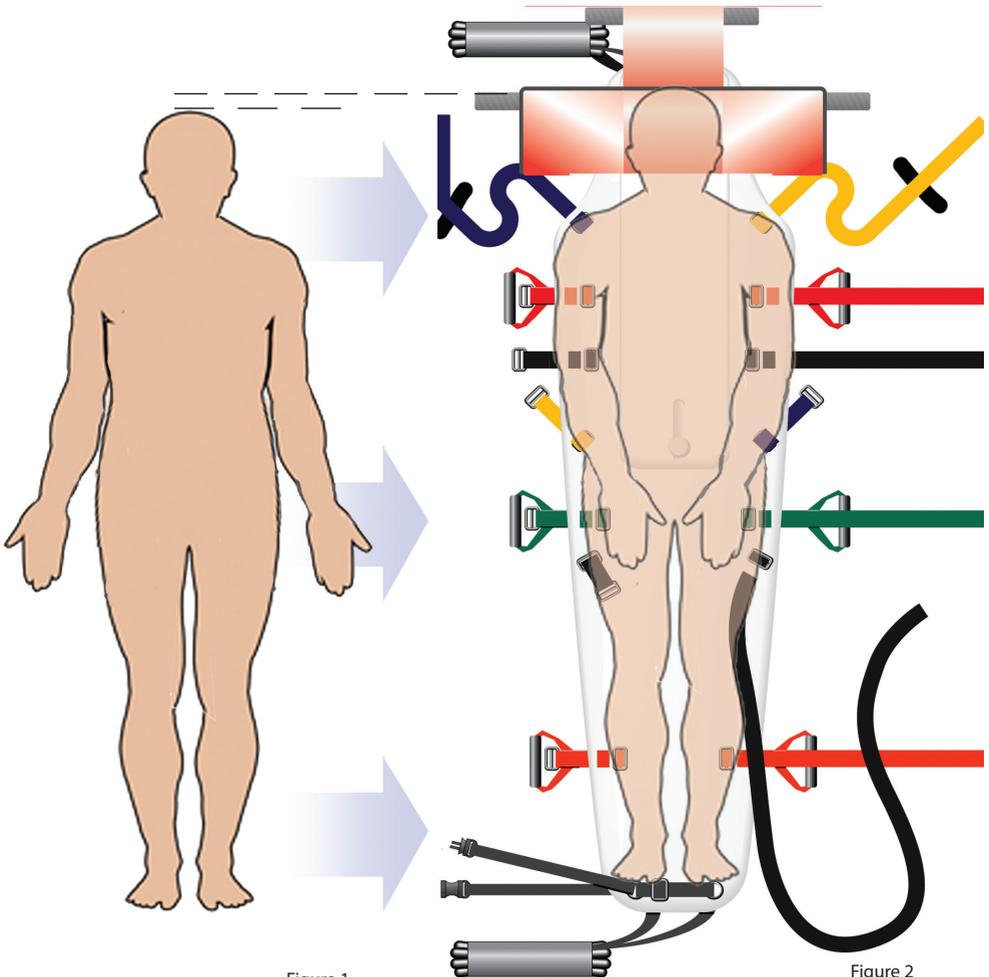


Figure 1

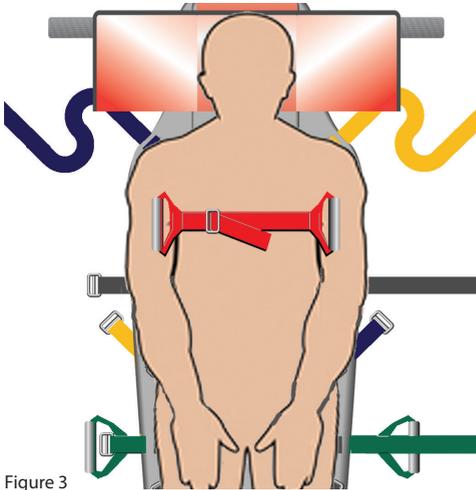
Figure 2

## CASUALTY STRAPPING SEQUENCE

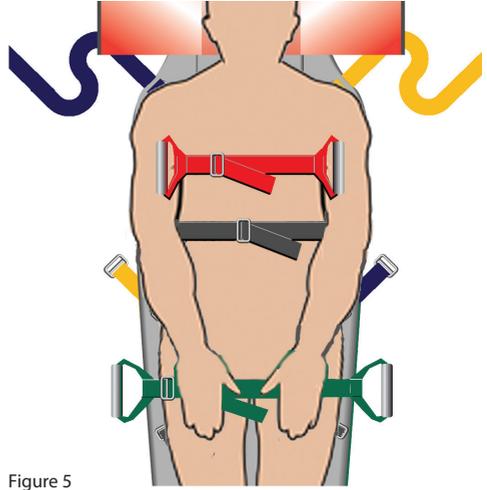
Note: Any injuries present must be taken into account when strapping.

### Strapping the casualty:

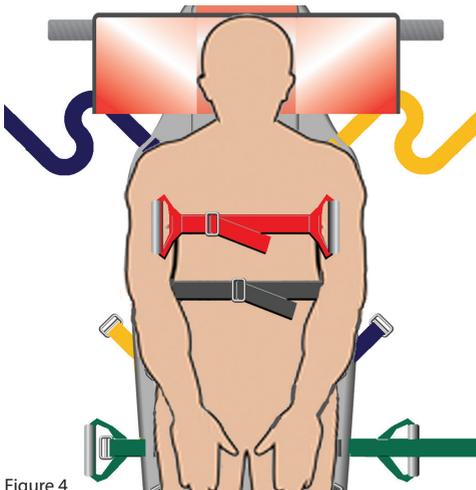
1. Fasten and tighten the Chest strap first. Pass the straps across the chest, keeping the casualty's arms out. The carry handles should be located under the casualty's arms as shown on Figure 3.



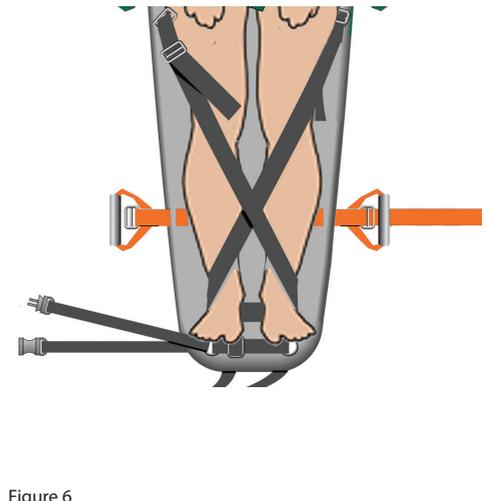
3. Next fasten and tighten the green Hip strap. For an unconscious casualty, their hands may be secured later using the wrist cuffs on straps 6 and 7 (the yellow and blue chest straps)



2. Next, fasten and tighten the black Waist strap as shown on Figure 4.



4. Use the foot loop to form a figure of eight around the feet as shown on Figure 6. Padding around the ankles and legs should be added if required.



5. Once the figure of eight is complete, secure the final orange cross strap. This should be secured where it lies on top of the foot loop as shown on Figure 7.

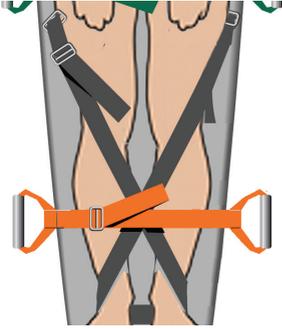


Figure 7

6. Now fasten the diagonal straps across the chest. Secure the strap over the casualty's left shoulder first.

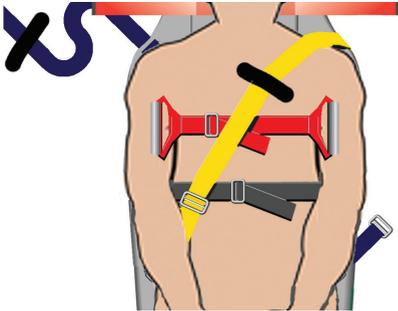


Figure 8

7. Then secure the strap over the casualty's right shoulder. Proceed to tighten up both shoulder straps remembering not to overly tighten and restrict the casualty's ability to breathe.

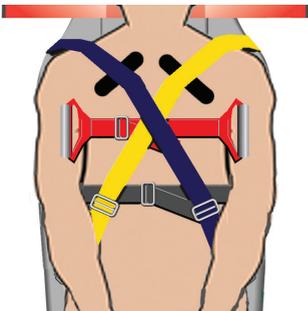


Figure 9

8. Fold up the three sides of the head hugger and secure using the velcro strap above the forehead. Secure the top panel to the sides with the velcro tabs. DO NOT use the chin strap if a collar is not used (as shown on Figure 10) as this can choke the casualty.

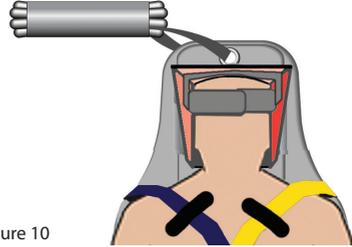


Figure 10

9. If a collar is being used, attach the velcro chin strap across the collar and to the head hugger as shown on Figure 11, which also shows arms secured in wrist cuffs

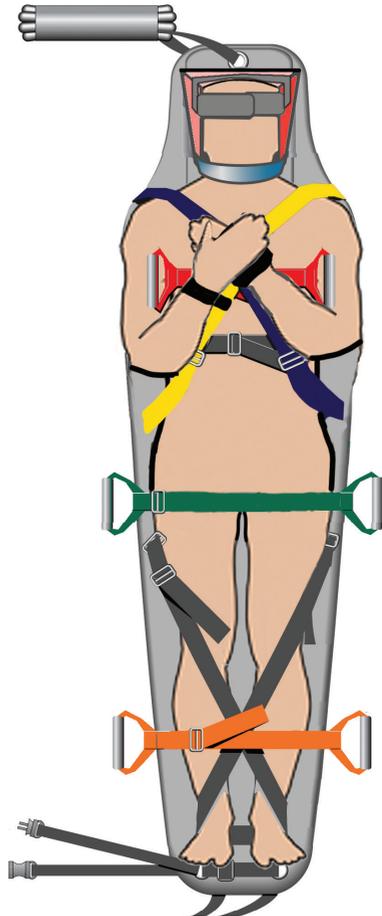


Figure 11

## Saviour Tactical Stretcher: **NOTES ON TRANSPORTING THE CASUALTY**

Below are listed the important points to be considered before transporting the casualty. The following two pages contain illustrated guides showing the methods of transporting a casualty in the Saviour Tactical stretcher.

**Any injuries present MUST be taken into account before packaging and transporting a casualty. If neck injuries are present, or suspected, a Cervical collar may be used. Medical devices should be fitted by a suitably qualified person.**

Points to remember:

- Counter bending each end of the stretcher will allow it to lay flat after removing from bag.
- Depending on the weight of the casualty 4 to 6 persons are required to ensure a efficient carry.
- Select a team leader or first aider to issue all instructions to effect a smooth transport.
- Elect a team member to be the 'casualties friend' (preferably a first aider if injuries are involved) whose job it is to make sure the casualty is not distressed during the evacuation.
- Chose a evacuation route before commencing (plan ahead). If there are unavoidable obstacles extra rescuers may be placed in readiness to help the main carry party.
- If possible select a team of similar height to keep the casualty level. It is preferable to keep the casualty slightly head up. When travelling down slope carry the casualty feet first. When carrying up slope carry the casualty head first.
- The Saviour Tactical stretcher has a low co-efficient of friction and must be secured at all times when on slopes or it may slide under the weight of the casualty. This is best effected by fitting the Head Haul Strap into the Head haul point eyelet and attaching a suitable rope (recommended to be at least Class A EN1891 semi static) The rescuer securing the stretcher must be secure to prevent accidental slipping. This is especially important on steep slopes.
- The Saviour Tactical stretcher is NOT designed to be lifted from the ends of the stretcher, but can be made to flex if required for confined space rescue, by lifting or bending from the ends.
- The Foot Strap must not be used to lift the stretcher. It is to guide the stretcher when negotiating slopes or past obstacles.
- When dragging a casualty remember that the stretcher is a relatively thin skin so choose the route with care.
- When evacuating up or down a steep slope a head rope should be used deployed from a suitably secured haul team. Rescuers may lift the stretcher whilst the haul party undertakes a co-ordinated haul (or lower) to ensure a smooth passage. On steep slopes the security of the individual rescuers must be addressed.
- If the Saviour Tactical stretcher is vertically lifted or lowered then it is recommended that the casualty is secured by a separate lifeline that is belayed separately to the haul rope. To attach the lifeline to the casualty it is recommended that is correctly attached to a full body harness fitted to the casualty. Do not use any other part or component of the stretcher to attach a security lifeline.
- The Saviour Tactical stretcher , with a casualty in place, may be fitted directly into a suitable basket stretcher without decanting the casualty.

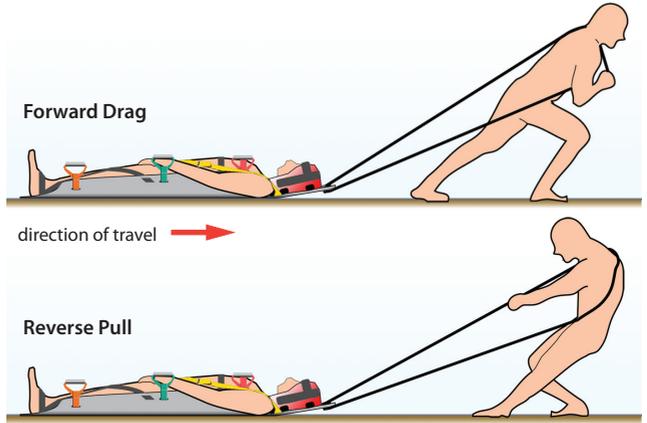
Saviour Tactical Stretcher:

**USE OF THE DRAG HARNESS**

Optional drag harnesses can be used at either end of the stretcher. On removing the protective sheath, a tape loop is released that is permanently attached through metal eyelets on the stretcher.

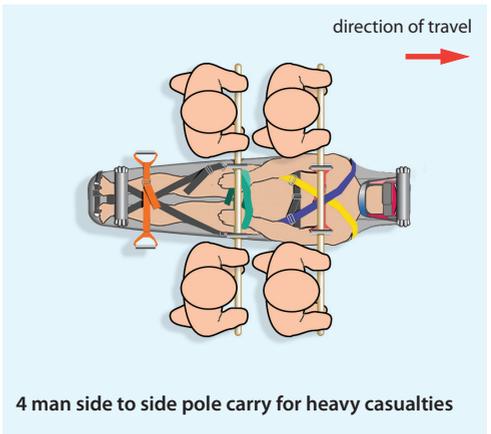
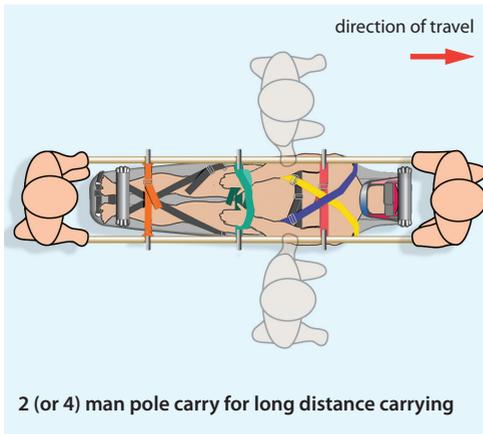
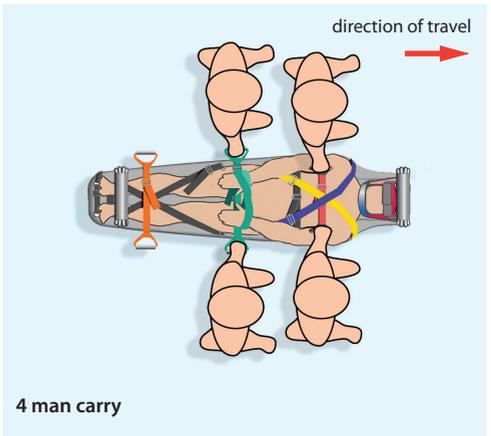
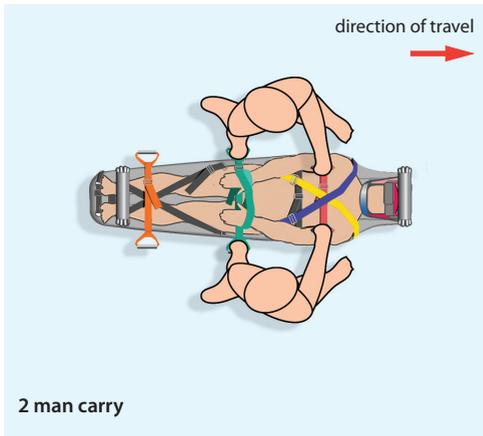
Placing the loop over the head and around the shoulders will allow the rescuer to drag or pull the casualty in the required direction while having their hands free to carry out other duties.

The same dragging or pulling technique is used when moving the casualty head or feet first.

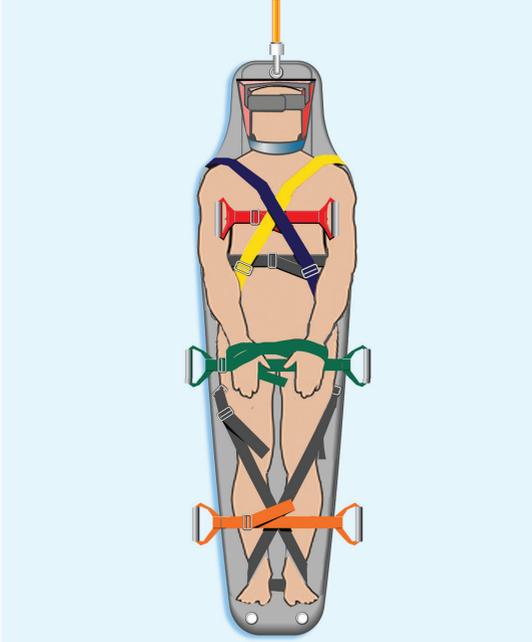


Saviour Tactical Stretcher:

**CARRYING THE CASUALTY**



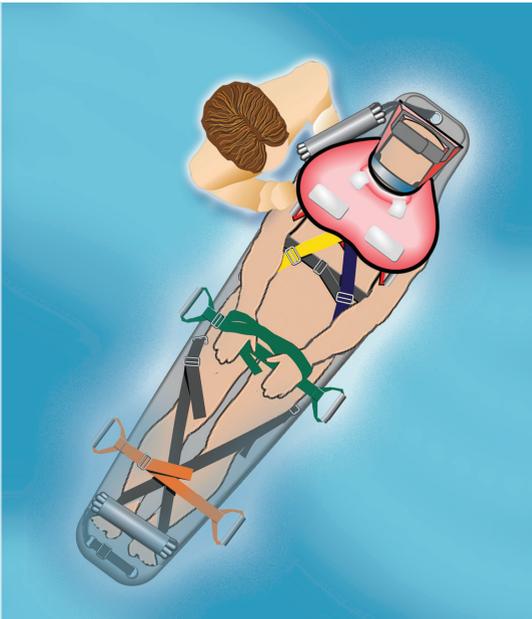
## Saviour Tactical Stretcher: **VERTICAL HAUL**



The Saviour Tactical stretcher is rated at 200 Kg for vertical lifting from the top eyelet using a suitable strop. As this only effects a single point of contact with the casualty, a second safety line secured to the casualty is always recommended.

In order to make the vertical haul easier, it is also recommended that the optional upper drag harness be removed from the stretcher to allow easy attachment of the strops. A lower drag harness can be used to stabilise the stretcher during vertical hauling if required.

## Saviour Tactical Stretcher: **IN WATER**



Being neutrally buoyant, the Saviour Tactical stretcher floats without assistance.

A casualty can be placed in the Saviour Tactical stretcher with a lifejacket fitted and then swum/towed to the point of rescue using the drag harness. Casualties can also be put into the Saviour Tactical stretcher in the water, (as long as the sea is calm enough), and a lifejacket is fitted first. This would be ideal for spinal casualty recovery in calm water.

## Saviour Tactical Stretcher: **MAINTENANCE**

The Saviour Tactical stretcher is made from materials which will not corrode in most harsh environments but may be subjected to damage or wear and tear during practices and use.

It is recommended that after each use or at intervals of not more than six months the unit is inspected by a competent person and the results recorded. Each unit has a unique serial number.

- Check the outer skin for tears or worn patches.
- Check the slots in the skin that attach the straps and carry handles for splits.
- Check there is no distortion to the skin around the Head Haul Eyelet.
- Check the edges of the skin for tears or splits.
- Check all straps and carry handles for cuts or wear. Take particular notice of the strap area around buckles. If cuts or fraying is present quarantine the stretcher and replace strap(s).
- Check Head Haul stop is not worn, cut or frayed.
- Check that the Velcro fasteners are clean and secure correctly.
- Check the Carry bag is not damaged and the attachment and closure Velcro straps are in good order.
- Check all components are present before re-packing into carry bag.

### Notes.

The outer skin will scratch and show signs of wear after use. The stretcher should not be used if the skin is penetrated or worn through.

All straps can be replaced by the user. The drag harness may be worn if the stretcher is dragged over rough ground. The drag harness must always be in first class condition. If in doubt replace.

If splits around the slots that attach the carry handles and straps are longer than 2mm the unit should be withdrawn from service immediately.

Distortion around the Head haul Eyelet will only be seen if the unit is subjected to a heavy load (such as a arrested fall). If the skin is distorted or penetrated the unit should withdrawn from service immediately.

The edge of the skin may become scuffed during use. If in doubt contact the manufacturer.

## Saviour Tactical Stretcher: **CLEANING AND STORING**

- The stretcher should be stored, after cleaning and inspection, in the Carry bag provided.
- It is recommended that a tagging system is used to ensure that a stored unit has been cleaned and inspected since last use.
- It is recommended that the stretcher is inspected at intervals not exceeding six months.
- The stretcher should thoroughly rinsed in cold fresh water after every use. A mild detergent may be used if rinsed afterwards.
- A LOW pressure power washer may be used (with care) to remove mud or sand. If contaminated by body fluids the stretcher and straps should be treated with a non corrosive disinfectant following the makers instructions and then thoroughly rinsed in fresh water before storing.
- If the stretcher and straps are contaminated with fuel or chemicals the straps and drag harness should be replaced before re-using.
- During dragging the Inner Skin retainer (no 13) is designed to be sacrificial and break away if the stretcher snags on a ground obstruction. This does not affect the integrity of the stretcher in any way, and it is safe to still be used. Replacement Inner Skin retainers can be obtained by emailing Saviour Medical Ltd - the address is found on our website.

