

**Practical Exercise Statement – Victim Packaging, Stokes Basket**

**Time Allotted:** 1 Hour

**Purpose:** The purpose of this exercise is to review and perform victim packaging utilizing a stokes basket.

**Terminal Learning Objective:** The student shall fully package a victim for high angle rescue utilizing a stokes basket and associated rigging.

**Enabling Learning Objectives:** Given a required equipment cache and a period of instruction, the student shall:

- Securely package a victim into a stokes basket
- Properly rig a stokes basket for horizontal orientation during a raise/lower
- Properly rig a stokes basket for a vertical orientation during a raise/lower
- Rig additional components as needed for specific hazards (i.e., tag lines, rescue tender attachments, etc.)

**Equipment Needed:**

- 1 – Stokes basket with straps
- 1 – Victim (a rescue dummy is preferred, although a live “victim” may be used. Provide all necessary safeties should the training involve a raise/lower)
- 1 – Backboard with straps
- 1 – 20’ piece 2” webbing
- 2 – pieces 1” tubular webbing 10’-12’ in length
- 1 – 30’ 10mm cord
- 1 – Stokes bridle
- 1 – rigging plate (a mini plate with at least four holes is preferred)
- 1 – pick off strap
- 2 – ½” ropes
- 15 - Carabiners

**Instructor’s Notes:** The instructor should begin the training by discussing the purposes and applications of packaging a patient in a stokes basket. The instructor should walk the students through the packaging process, describing the purpose for each component. Follow these steps when packaging

1. Place a harness on the victim, or tie a hasty harness on the victim using the 2” webbing. Depending on the victim’s orientation, this may be performed before or after placing the victim on the backboard. (include whatever EMS skill you desire, i.e., c-spine precautions, etc.)

2. Place the victim on the back board and secure with backboard straps
3. Place the backboarded victim in the basket and secure basket straps (if equipped)
4. Girth hitch 1" webbing through the victims harness attachment and tie each tail around the top rail at the head of the basket using clove hitches with safeties. Incorporate a vertical component of the basket frame in the middle of the clove hitches if possible.
5. Repeat the process with another piece of 1" webbing through the victim's harness, tying this piece at the foot of the basket.
6. At the center of the foot of the basket, girth hitch the 10mm cord around the top rail. Working your way toward the head, criss-cross the cord from side to side, wrapping the main rail of the basket. It is important to mimic each side exactly to provide equal loading. Cinch up the lashing and finish with either a square knot and safeties across the patient's chest, or with clove hitches at the head of the basket.
7. Attach the basket bridle to the basket, and ensure each leg of the bridle is in its fully shortened position.
8. Attach the mainline to the victim's harness attachment using a figure eight knot. Attach the mainline to the bridle with a butterfly knot, ensuring enough slack between the two knots so the patient's harness will not become loaded should the bridle be fully extended.
9. Repeat step 8 with the belay line, making the attachment to the bridle in a different hole of the rigging plate. (In the event the basket will be tended by a rescuer, the tail of the bridle will go the rescuer's harness rather than the victim's harness)
10. Attach a tagline to the basket using a figure 8 with two bights. (one bight to the head of the basket, and one to the foot) The bights will need to be approximately 5'-6' long.
11. If a rescuer is to tend the basket, attach the pick-off strap to the bridle and then to the rescuer's harness. The length of the strap will be adjusted after the basket has been raised off the ground enough that the rescuer can load the pick-off strap.
12. Perform a safety check of all hardware, ensuring all carabiners are locked, and loaded correctly.
13. If a raise/lower is to be performed with the packaged "victim", the instructor may choose to reference the **Mechanical Advantage Practical Exercise Statement** and merge the two exercised.