

Improved Evacuation Techniques Using the Newly Invented WauK[®] board

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This paper discusses the advantages of using the WauK® board to evacuate supine (lying face up) patients. Two different scenarios are addressed. In the first situation, the building where evacuation is occurring still has power and a small elevator is available for use. In the second situation, power is not available and the evacuation stairwell must be used.

Scenario one: building still has power and a small elevator is available for use

Current procedure: evacuation is performed with a backboard or a stretcher. If the elevator is small, first responders have to decide whether to carry the patient down the stairs or take the patient upright into the elevator on the stretcher or backboard. Carrying the patient down the stairwell has the potential for back discomfort or injury to the first responder. Taking the patient upright into the elevator on the stretcher or backboard has the potential for the patient to slide downward. Strapping the patient tighter may minimize this effect but at the expense of the patient's comfort and well being.

New procedure: a WauK® board is used to transport the evacuee. Because the WauK® board has the features of a dolly built in (wheels, footrest, and the ability to roll or carry a patient), the patient can be raised to an upright position without impacting comfort or well being. The WauK® board's footrest and wheels allow it to be rolled into the small elevator in an upright position. It was designed for this purpose.

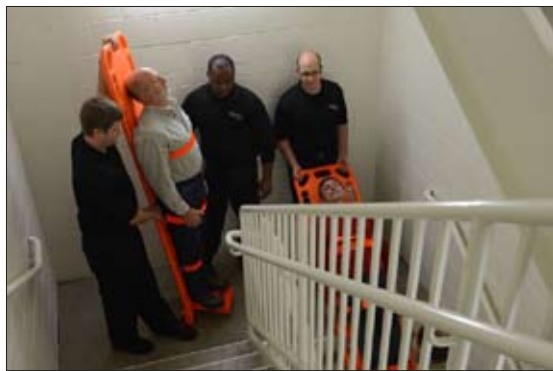


Evacuation in a small elevator using the WauK® board

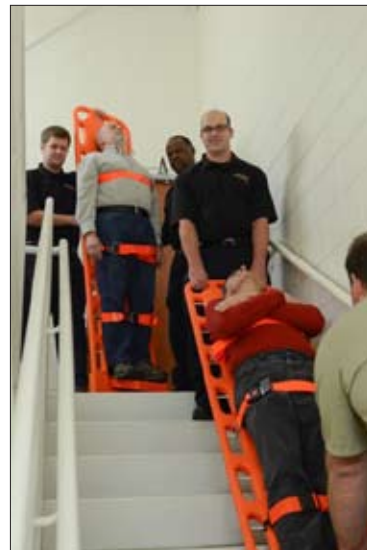
Scenario two: power is not available and the evacuation stairwell must be used

Current procedure: evacuation is performed with a backboard or a stretcher by carrying the patient down the stairwell. First responders can suffer back injury or discomfort.

New procedure: a WauK® board is used to transport the evacuee. The WauK® board's wheels and footrest allow first responders to gently roll a patient down each step rather than carrying the patient down the stairwell. The WauK® board acts as a dolly during patient transport.



Evacuation down an emergency stairwell



This could be especially beneficial in an evacuation, such as a nursing home, where many people have to be evacuated in the shortest time possible.

For more information about the WauK® board including videos, uses, pricing, and product specifications, visit <http://www.waukboard.com>