

How to Prevent Back Injury to the First Responder When Transporting a Patient on a Backboard

by Brian Bandel and Garry Bandel

(866) 806-8898

www.waukboard.com

This discussion compares the current and new procedure for rescuing a patient on a backboard. This assumes that the patient must remain in the supine position.

The current procedure, using a standard backboard, requires two first responders to lift the backboard with the patient on it and carry the patient and the backboard from the point of rescue to the cot. In addition, during the carry one responder has to walk backward, which is very awkward, while the other faces forward.

The new procedure, using a WauK™ board, requires two first responders to lift the head end of the backboard with the patient on it to shoulder height and roll the patient and the backboard from the point of rescue to the cot. In this procedure both responders face forward and are able to see where they are going.



The new procedure is possible because of the development of the WauK™ board which is a backboard-like device with the features of a dolly built in. The wheels, self-contained footrest, and strategically placed hand-holds allow the WauK™ board to be used like a dolly.



Because the WauK™ board can be used as a dolly, it helps prevent back injury by allowing first responders to transport their patient to safety by rolling rather than carrying them.

The WauK™ board can also be used to transport a patient down stairs. The following pictures demonstrate transporting a patient down a set of stairs. Again, the patient is being rolled down the stairs rather than carried down the stairs, helping prevent back injury to the first responder.





If you are dealing with scissors stairs, the WauK™ board can be taken vertical on the landing, rotated 180 degrees by heeling one of the wheels and then continuing with the transport. There is a video that demonstrates this activity at www.waukboard.com.

We believe that the WauK™ board is the perfect compliment to a stair chair and power cot. If you have a stair chair for rescuing patients that can sit up, and a WauK™ board to rescue patients that must remain supine and a power cot to transfer them to, you will have significantly reduced the necessity of heavy lifting.

You do not need extra space to store the WauK™ board since it is designed to fit in the backboard compartment of your ambulance.

In addition, there is a standard version and a compact version available so that the WauK™ board fits in almost all Type I, II, and III ambulances.

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

