



Training

Use of Ropes During Medical Incidents

At some point during an EMS response you will come across an obese patient located on an upper floor. Narrow halls & stairwells only complicate the issue as we are unable to add additional personnel to assist. One answer comes in the form of a simple rope system carried on all engine companies.

Engine Co. Rope Rescue Equipment:

100 ft - ½" Kernmantle Rope

2 locking steel carabiners

2 sections of 20 ft of 1" tubular webbing

Disposable patient carrier

Several methods exist for packaging a patient for removal from an upper floor. Besides the disposable patient carrier carried by all engine & medic units, Rescue 1 and Ladder 3 are equipped with larger and heavier duty patient carrying devices (dolphin). After the patient has been packaged, the rope can either be anchored with a tool and a belay system can be set up, or A firefighter can be staged above the patient and other lifters to guide and take some of the weight of the patient.

A simple belay system can be quickly set up with a [munter-hitch](#). Finding an anchor point can also be challenging, many times you will need to think outside the box. The anchor point on the top photo was established using a halligan tool laid across the newel posts. The center picture utilized 4x4 lumber laid across the 2nd floor window.

