

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES



SPECIAL ORDER

2009.070



Originating From	Issue Date	Expiration Date	Attachments
Operations	10/22/2009		

SUBJECT: Bariatric Transports

APPLICABILITY: All Personnel

1. Recently, the department outfitted all frontline and ready reserve EMS transport units with special mounting brackets to support a new Stryker Bariatric Transport Stretcher and Loading System. The department has acquired two Stryker "MX-Pro" Bariatric Stretchers, each including a set of ramps and winch system. These stretchers will support a maximum weight capacity of 1600 lbs in the down position and 850 lbs in the raised position. These stretchers include an increased cot width of 29" for a more comfortable and stable bariatric transport over the standard Ferno-Washington stretcher of 23" width.
2. A "Bariatric Response" should be requested to Communications when you exceed the weight limit of your stretcher. A "Bariatric Response" should be considered if your stretcher's weight capacity is not exceeded, but patient's size, mass, or other circumstances prohibit the use of the conventional stretcher. While the setup of the system is relatively quick, keep in mind the time requirements of assembling all needed personnel and equipment. Consider this time, and evaluate if it is beneficial to the patient to wait.
 - 2.1. A "Bariatric Response" will include an ambulance, an engine, a special service, the Medical Duty Officer, and the closest available bariatric stretcher with loading system. If you need to perform any structural alterations to remove the patient, then "Special Operations" should be requested.
 - 2.2. The MDO will make notification to the hospital as soon as possible about receiving a bariatric patient. Most local hospitals have limited bariatric equipment on hand, so the earlier they are made aware of an incoming patient, the earlier they can work to reduce the transporting unit's wait time upon arrival at the Emergency Room. The MDO should consider having Communications place a CAD flag on the address to expedite the "Bariatric Response" for future incidents.
 - 2.3. The unit responding with the bariatric equipment is there to assist with the transportation needs and support patient handling. They will not normally assume responsibility for patient care. All patient care is the responsibility of the initial responding crews already on scene.
 - 2.4. The Bariatric Stretchers and Loading Systems are currently located at Stations 2 & 10. When Station 2 is alerted for a "Bariatric Response" the Station OIC will determine by what vehicle (A25, A26, Utility 2, etc.) the equipment will respond to the requested

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES



SPECIAL ORDER

2009.070



location. When Station 10 is alerted for a "Bariatric Response" the Station OIC will determine by what vehicle (normally Water Rescue 10) the equipment will respond. If neither Howard County Bariatric System is available, consideration may be given to requesting a Bariatric Unit through mutual aid.

- 2.5. The bariatric stretcher is primarily to be used outside of the residential structure. At no time should the bariatric stretcher be carried up steps.
3. Currently the conventional stretchers in use in the county include:
 - 3.1. Ferno-Washington: maximum weight limit of 500lbs/226 kg
 - 3.2. Stryker: maximum weight limit of 650lbs/294kg

Approved:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles M. Sharpe".

Charles M. Sharpe
Deputy Chief, Operations Command