

BULLETIN

NO: 25-115
DATE: June 27, 2025
TO: Fire and Lifeguard Operations
FROM: Kyle Smith, Battalion Chief, Health and Safety Officer
SUBJECT: **Safety Message** – Lyfe Pulley Bridle

The Occupational Health and Safety's messaging sub-committee has written the attached safety message for your situational awareness.

- **Refer to SDFD Operations Manual**
 - **SI 10 Section 04 Safety Communications**
- **Please review this as a crew to share all your knowledge and experiences**
 - Supervisors can add their crew members for Vector Solutions assignment completion on all Health & Safety material

Any questions should be directed through the chain of command.

Don't hesitate to contact the Health and Safety Office at SDFDHealth&Safety@sandiego.gov with comments or areas of improvement. For all other questions, contact HSO/Battalion Chief Kyle Smith at 619.533.4466 or kasmith@sandiego.gov.



Wellness Resources QR code:
login: sdfd password: wellness
or call toll free **833-SDFD-HSO (733-3476)**





San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Health & Safety Office **SAFETY MESSAGE**

Div/Sec: Div/Sec: Fire and Lifeguard Operations

Date: June 27, 2025

Issue/Incident: Correct Use of Stokes Basket High-Angle Litter Bridle with Lyfe Pulley System

Background: A safety issue has been identified with the improper use of the Stokes Basket and its associated High Angle Litter Bridle during Lyfe Pulley operations.

Issue:

The Lyfe Pulley System has a Standard Operating Procedure, as outlined in SDFD SOPs referenced below in Target Solutions. In short, the flow of equipment from the tip of the ladder down should be:

- Rope to Pulley -> Pulley to Carabiner -> Carabiner to Webbing -> Webbing to rescue system (Rescuer/ Victim/Stokes)

Multiple instances of the Stokes Basket and its associated High Angle Litter Bridle being misused during Lyfe Pulley operations. Personnel have eliminated the Webbing from the system and removed the basket from the basket straps, enabling the rescuer or victim to be unsafely loaded directly onto the Stokes Basket straps with no Stokes Basket attached. This presents multiple problems:

- Use of the High Angle Litter Bridle without the Stokes Basket is an unapproved use for this equipment
 - The equipment was never intended to be used in this manner by the manufacturer
- While potentially convenient for system setup, this setup has proven to damage equipment

The uneven weighting of the bridle caused by two independent and unequal weights of two people can damage the stitching, making the rescue unsafe

- Can render the equipment Out of Service

****This does not preclude TRT from using advanced techniques and/or equipment****

Action Items:

- Personnel shall follow SDFD SOPs and manufacturer recommendations for use of this equipment
- Inspect the bridle to ensure no stitching has been damaged
- The High-Angle Litter Bridle is to be used only with the litter basket



Robert L. Logan II
Fire Chief

Daniel Eddy
Assistant Chief, Emergency Operations

Kyle Smith
Battalion Chief, Health & Safety Officer

James Gaboury
Assistant Chief, Business Operations

New Safety Tailboards, Messages, Feedback, Suggestions and/or Reporting to the OHSC - SDFDHEALTH&SAFETY@SANDIEGO.GOV

"Promoting Safe and Healthy Lives"





San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Health & Safety Office

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References:

Target Solutions Homepage ->File Center (left of screen) ->Training Division ->Operations
Training -> TRNG Truck Co Ops -> Lyfe Pulley System (folder) -> Lyfe Pulley System (pdf)



San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Health & Safety Office **SAFETY MESSAGE**

Improper Bridle Application -
See stitching coming apart in third picture



Proper Lyfe Pulley Setup -
Refer to Target Solutions References/Links



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