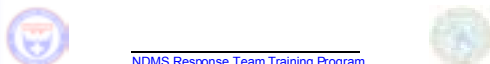


**Aircraft Safety for NDMS
Response Teams**

Part 3
Patient Moving Safety Issues


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NDMS Response Team Training Program

Topics



- Preparing patients for air evacuation
- Procedures for loading patients onto fixed wing aircraft
- Preparing patients for helicopter evacuation



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Moving Patients Via Aircraft

- In disasters, aircraft might be used to evacuate large numbers of patients.
- For this purpose, the fixed wing airframes are the most common aircraft used by the military for medical evacuations.



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Moving Patients Via Aircraft

- Rotary wing (helicopter) aircraft will be used for shorter distances and on-scene work.



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Preparing Patients for Air Evacuation

- Stabilize and treat patients for all life threatening problems prior to requesting patient evacuation.



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Preparing Patients for Air Evacuation

- Triage all patients to be loaded onto aircraft.
- The most critical patients are the :
 - Last to enter the aircraft.
 - First to deplane once they arrive at their destination.



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Preparing Patient for Air Evacuation

Prior to the aircraft's arrival:

- Complete all medical records, orders and transfer paperwork.
 - The military uses the DOD-602 tracking form.



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Preparing Patient for Air Evacuation

Prior to the aircraft's arrival:

- Assist all patients with use of the latrine.
- Empty all fluid collection bags.
- Securely stow bags in the patient's litter.



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Preparing Patient for Air Evacuation

- Secure all bed linens using the litter straps and/or tape, as needed.
- IV bags should be secured, rechecked, and regulated to the proper flow rate.
- Provide patients with eye and ear protection.
 - During a "hot" load, cover unresponsive patient's eyes with a blanket or a cravat.



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Loading Aircraft Safely

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Wear protective clothing, gloves, eye and hearing protection.
- Ankle supporting, non-skid boots are essential, especially when working in a muddy, rain-slick environment.



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Loading Aircraft Safely

- Work as a team to ensure that all members have firm footing and hold on the litter.
- Be particularly cautious on slanted ramps or stairs, and on wet surfaces.
- Do not venture too close to the propellers.
 - Remember, when the propellers are turning, they become invisible and are very dangerous.



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Loading the Evacuation Aircraft

- Load ambulatory patients first:
 - Before loading, aircrew members will brief the patients and the DMAT team members assisting with the procedure.
- Patients will usually enter the aircraft using a ramp at the rear of the aircraft.




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Loading of the Evacuation Aircraft


- Air Force policy states that patients will enter the airplane in a line led by an aircraft crew member.
- As the ambulatory patients move to the aircraft, they should approach the boarding door, escorted and followed by aircrew members in a continuous line.



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Loading the Evacuation Aircraft


- For non-ambulatory patients, standard procedure calls for a load master and a spotter to be located near the loading ramp:
 - An aircraft crew member, acting as spotter, signals to start the loading process
- Litter patients will usually enter the aircraft using the rear cargo ramp.



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Loading the Evacuation Aircraft



- Non-ambulatory patients will be carried using a 4-person carry.
- Upon reaching the spotter that is usually located about 20 feet behind the aircraft, the litter bearers will turn and head directly toward the back of the aircraft.



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Loading the Evacuation Aircraft




- Just prior to reaching the top of the ramp, the litter bearers must change to a 2-person carry.
 - Narrow aisles between the litter racks are too narrow to allow the 4-person carry.



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Loading the Evacuation Aircraft



- Once inside the aircraft, the crew members will assist in placing and securing the patient in the appropriate liter racks.



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Loading the Evacuation Aircraft

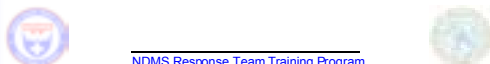
- As soon as one patient leaves the holding area, another patient should be ready for the spotter's signal to approach the plane.
 - The patient only leaves this position when signaled to do so by the spotter.



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Loading the Evacuation Aircraft


- Once the patient is securely fastened into the litter racks, the litter bearers will exit the aircraft the same way they entered the aircraft.
- They will then proceed to the spotter's position and wait for directions.



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Loading the Evacuation Aircraft

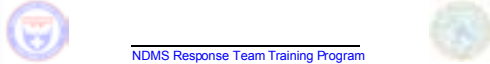

- The spotter controls the flow of patients to the aircraft and the exit of litter bearers from the aircraft.
- The load master controls the flow of the litters and bearers within the aircraft.



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Loading the Evacuation Aircraft


- When the rear ramp is not used, patients will load through a front entrance.
 - A ramp or stairs will be installed.



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Loading the Evacuation Aircraft


- The DMAT will follow the instructions of the spotter and other members of the flight crew in the same fashion as loading from the rear of the aircraft.



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Preparing Patient for Helicopter Transport

- Military aircraft are configured to use a standard folding litter :
 - The patient may need to be moved to a litter designed for the specific aircraft.
 - This transfer should be done in a safe area away from the aircraft.



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Preparing Patient for Helicopter Transport

- Brief patient and other workers
- Prepare the patients by :
 - Securing them to the litter using straps
 - Securing loose objects
 - Use plastic IV Bags
 - Secure all medical equipment
 - Personal belongings

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Preparing Patient for Helicopter Transport

- Provide eye and ear protection for the patients, especially when performing a “hot load.”
- The loading crew must remove or secure loose clothing and objects.



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Preparing Patient for Helicopter Transport

- Approaching, loading, and departing from the aircraft are similar to the procedures outlined in the fixed-wing section of this session.



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Summary

- Stabilize and treat patients for life threatening problems, prior to transport.
- Follow specified procedures for preparing and loading patients onto different types of aircraft.
- Focus on “safety first” for patients and team members.



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Conclusion

- **The use of aircraft in disaster response will be an asset rather than a liability if :**
 - **DMAT team members are very diligent to the hazards and potential problems around aircraft.**
 - **Gear is properly prepared for air travel.**
 - **Basic safety rules are followed.**
- **If these simple items are accomplished then the DMAT may complete the assigned mission and safely return home to our families.**



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