



DT: June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

TO: JOCO EMS System

RE: Transporting Spinal Patients with Gators

I wanted to make a quick comment/clarification regarding the use of a Gator to move spinal patients to the ambulance. If EMS evaluates the patient and determines that spinal precautions are needed you should still utilize the Long Spine Board or Scoop Stretcher. The patient should be secured to the Long Board or Scoop using straps in such a way to make it safe for the patient to travel while on the Gator over rough terrain or long distances. There is no need to secure the patient's head with a headbed or tape, simply using the straps is all that will likely be required.

Once the patient is taken off the Gator and placed on the EMS cot they should then be removed from the Long Board or Scoop as you learned in training. This is the same type of procedure we use for patients who require immobilization who are down an embankment, require traversing stairwells or require a fair amount of distance to be covered prior to reaching the EMS cot . Boxing the hips/chest/legs with straps as needed to ensure they are stable during the transfer to the cot is all that is required. Again, once they are placed on the EMS cot please unstrap the patient and get them off of the Board/Scoop for transport.

The biggest reminder about the new spinal procedures is to think of the Long Board/Scoop Stretchers/Tarps as movement/extrication tools. They are completely appropriate to move patients from point A to point B, but once on the ambulance cot they become redundant and can be safely removed for transport.

Please feel free to email or call me with any further clarifications, questions or concerns.

Thank you for continuing to provide outstanding patient care and working to incorporate these new changes!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan C. Jacobsen".

Ryan C. Jacobsen MD, EMT-P  
JOCO EMS System Medical Director