

1.0 Objective

1.1 The purpose of this guideline is to establish operational procedures when using the Skedco “Sked-Evac Tripod.”

2.0 Responsibility

2.1 It is the responsibility of all Department personnel to understand the procedures documented in this Standard Operating Guideline.



3.0 Features

- 3.1 Header: Limits the distance the legs can be spread apart, has 3 separate anchor points that are equally centered and large enough to accommodate two (2) carabiners each.
- 3.2 Legs: adjust in 5” increments for leveling on uneven surfaces. Minimum height is 6 feet and maximum height is 10 feet.
- 3.3 Feet: Use in the horizontal position for solid surfaces such as Asphalt, Concrete, etc. Use in the vertical position (pointed end down towards the outside) for soft surfaces. The feet may be bolted down, if necessary.
- 3.4 Chain: *The chain must be used on this tripod unless the feet are securely bolted down and immovable. The chain prevents the legs from spreading.*
- 3.5 Proof load information that “indicates the maximum load at each height setting.”

Leg Position	Proof Load in Pounds	Tripod Height in Inches
A	5280	119
B	6000	115
C	7000	112
D	7500	107
E	8500	102
F	9500	98



4.0 Tripod Set Up:

- 4.1 Extend legs to desired length and lock them into position with the hitch pins. Place the cotter pins through the holes at the end of each hitch pin to prevent them from accidentally working their way out. Ensure that the tripod is as level as possible on uneven ground.
 - 4.1.1 Note: If removal of a victim requires the use of a Sked-sled, Stokes Basket, etc, set the tripod at the maximum height.
- 4.2 Attach the haul system to one (1) of the anchors with two (2) carabiners and check all connections.
- 4.3 Stand the tripod up and spread the legs outward to the maximum distance allowed by the tripod head. Then move each leg inward two (2) inches.
- 4.4 Remove the chain from its storage bag and thread it through the holes in the sides of the feet. Connect one end of the chain to the other using the screw link provided, thus preventing the legs from spreading. It will be necessary to move inward from the end link at one end of the chain to secure the chain tightly, forming a triangle between the three legs. *The chain must be used on this tripod unless the feet are properly bolted down and immovable.*

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5.0 Tripod operation:

- 5.1 Six (6) personnel is the optimum number to operate the tripod and hauling system.
 - 5.1.1 Leader/ Brakeman (1 person): Is in charge of the set-up and operation of the tripod, gives commands for hauling and lowering operations, and operates the brake cam.
 - 5.1.2 Leg Tenders (3 Personnel): Steady the tripod legs during hauling and lowering operations, and safeguard and assist around the entry point.
 - 5.1.3 Haul Team (1 to 2 Personnel): Operate 4:1 pulley system.
- 5.2 *When using the 4:1 pulley system, pull in a downward direction on the haul line. A horizontal pull will increase friction on the haul line (due to a guide on the pulley housing) and may also cause destabilization of the tripod.*
- 5.3 When hoisting a load using the tripod, the load must be lifted vertically and centered within the triangle formed by the legs to prevent destabilization. Check the label attached to the tripod to determine the safe working load for the height at which you have set the tripod. The letter markings on the legs correspond to the safe working loads on the label. *Do not load the tripod with weight in excess of the safe working loads indicated on the label.*
- 5.4 When the load is out of the hole, be careful not too pull to far “off of center.” This could cause the tripod to destabilize and tip over.
- 5.5 Commands for lowering:
 - 5.5.1 “Prepare to Lower” - To alert the Haul Team
 - 5.5.2 “Short Haul” - To ease disengagement of the brake (approximately 1 foot)
 - 5.5.3 “Lower”- Use a steady and controlled pace
 - 5.5.4 “Lower Slow” - To safeguard the movement of the load in tight quarters
 - 5.5.5 “Stop” - To stop the lowering of, and hold tension on, the haul line
 - 5.5.6 “Set” - To set the brake and to ease the tension off of the haul line
- 5.6 Commands for raising:
 - 5.6.1 “Prepare to Haul”- To alert the haul team
 - 5.6.2 “Haul” - Use a steady and controlled pace
 - 5.6.3 “Haul slow” - To safeguard the movement of the load in tight quarters
 - 5.6.4 “Stop” - To stop the hauling of, and hold tension on, the haul line
 - 5.6.5 “Set” - To ease the tension off of the haul line. *Note: The only time the brake is disengaged is when you are in the Lowering Operation. The Leader/Brakeman must be alert for any conditions that warrant the immediate re-engagement of the brake.*

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5.7 Commands for Belaying:

- 5.7.1 Rescuer - “On Rope” - Attaching to haul system
- 5.7.2 Rescuer - “On Belay” - Requesting belay from belay team
- 5.7.3 Belay Team - “Belay On” - Ready to belay rescuer
- 5.7.4 Leader/Brakeman - “Lower” - Begins descent
- 5.7.5 Rescuer - “Slack” - Allow slack in belay line
- 5.7.6 Rescuer - “Tension” - Take up slack in belay line
- 5.7.7 Rescuer - “Off Rope” - Disconnected from lowering system

6.0 Stowing the Tripod

- 6.1 Stow in the opposite manner of tripod set-up.

7.0 Reference

- 7.1 Highland Park Fire Department
- 7.2 Skedco: Sked-Evac Tripod Operations Manual

Approved:  Fire Chief