

## Clearfield EMS Power LOAD Stretcher Helps with Safety of the patient and Crews.

The Power-LOAD™ cot fastener system improves operator and patient safety by supporting the cot throughout the loading and unloading process. The reduction in spinal load helps prevent cumulative trauma injuries.

### **Occupant Safety**

Meets dynamic crash test standards for maximized occupant safety. Also minimizes patient drops by supporting the cot until the wheels are on the ground.

### **Hydraulic Lift**

Ergonomically designed to reduce operator and patient injuries, Power-LOAD™ hydraulically lifts patients weighing up to 700 lbs with the touch of a button.

All it takes is the push of a button and Clearfield EMS team members can easily load and unload a patient from its critical care ground ambulance. This is thanks to a new advancement, adding a Stryker Power-LOAD stretcher fastener system that improves operator and patient safety by supporting the patient and stretcher throughout the loading and unloading process.

“Having the Power-LOAD in the ambulance allows for loading without heavy lifting and eliminates the risk of back injury,” says Terry Wigfield Executive Director at Clearfield EMS. The Power-LOAD System has a 700 pound capacity, whereas before the team could only lift 500 lbs.

There are many safety features to having the Stryker Power-LOAD and one of those is that it supports the stretcher until the wheels are on the ground. Another safety feature is the backup system. “The Power-LOAD is battery operated, and in the case of a power loss, the Power-LOAD can be pushed to the back of the ambulance, allowing crew members to manually push the stretcher into the ambulance, but still being securely locked,” explains Wigfield.

How exactly does this system work? There are six key features that allow for effective and safe lifting for medical personnel. The Power-LOAD has hydraulic lifting arms that support the stretcher and patient during load and unloading, head-end LED indicators, that informs the operator of the stretchers status. A control panel, which allows complete operation for manual stretchers as well as the operation of powered stretchers in the event of a power loss. The red release handles allow the stretcher to be disengaged from the Power-LOAD system when unloading. To help prevent sliding of the stretcher, a Linear Transfer System supports and guides the stretchers. The last feature of this system is the Inductive Charging system, which automatically charges the stretchers SMRT battery and Power-LOAD battery when in transport position.

Having the Power-LOAD system in the critical care ambulance is especially beneficial when loading an isolette, which alone weighs about 350 lbs., or a larger patient. Safety of patients and crew members is extremely important to Clearfield EMS, having this additional feature ensures the best safety measures for everyone. The Power-Load is very expensive however Clearfield currently has two. Our goal is to install all of our four ambulances with one.