

STRETCHER MAKING

What is Stretcher Making in Mountaineering?

Stretcher making in mountaineering refers to the process of creating a makeshift stretcher using available resources to carry an injured or incapacitated person to safety. This is a crucial skill in remote and rugged environments where professional medical evacuation is not immediately available.

Why is it Used?

- Emergency Evacuation:
 - To transport injured climbers from the accident site to a safer location for medical assistance.
- Remote Locations:
 - In isolated or high-altitude areas, immediate medical help might be hours or days away. A stretcher allows the team to move the injured person over difficult terrain.
- Team Safety:
 - Ensures that the entire team can move together, rather than leaving someone behind.

How to Make a Stretcher?

The stretcher is typically made using available gear such as ropes, trekking poles, jackets, and climbing harnesses. Here's a basic method:

Materials Required:

- Ropes or slings
- Trekking poles or sturdy branches
- Jackets or tarps
- Carabiners

Step by Step Process:

- Lay the Poles Parallel:
 - Place two trekking poles or sturdy branches parallel to each other, about shoulder width apart.
- Weave the Rope:
 - Weave a rope or slings between the poles to create a supportive surface. Alternatively, you can secure jackets, tarps, or backpacks to the poles using ropes or slings to form the bed of the stretcher.

Ein



• Secure the Structure:

- Use additional ropes or carabiners to secure the material tightly to the poles so that it doesn't shift when carrying the injured person.
- Reinforce as Needed:
 - If available, reinforce the stretcher by adding more ropes or slings to ensure the injured person is secure and the stretcher is strong enough to carry their weight.

Features, Advantages, and Benefits:

Features:

- Lightweight and Portable:
 - Utilizes available gear, making it easy to assemble in the field.
- Durable:
 - Made with climbing gear designed to withstand tough conditions.
- Adaptable:
 - Can be customized based on available resources and the specific needs of the injured person.

Advantages:

- Quick Response:
 - Enables immediate evacuation without waiting for external rescue teams.
- Versatility:
 - Works in various terrains, from rocky slopes to dense forests.
 - Team Collaboration:
 - Encourages teamwork, as multiple people are needed to carry the stretcher.

Benefits:

•

- Increased Survival Chances:
 - Swift and efficient transport of injured individuals can make the difference between life and death. WOILS, GOILDOWLTH -
- Reduces Risk:
 - Prevents further injury to the affected person by stabilizing them during transport.

Preserves Energy:

• Allows the injured person to conserve energy and avoid further strain, especially in high-altitude environments.

