

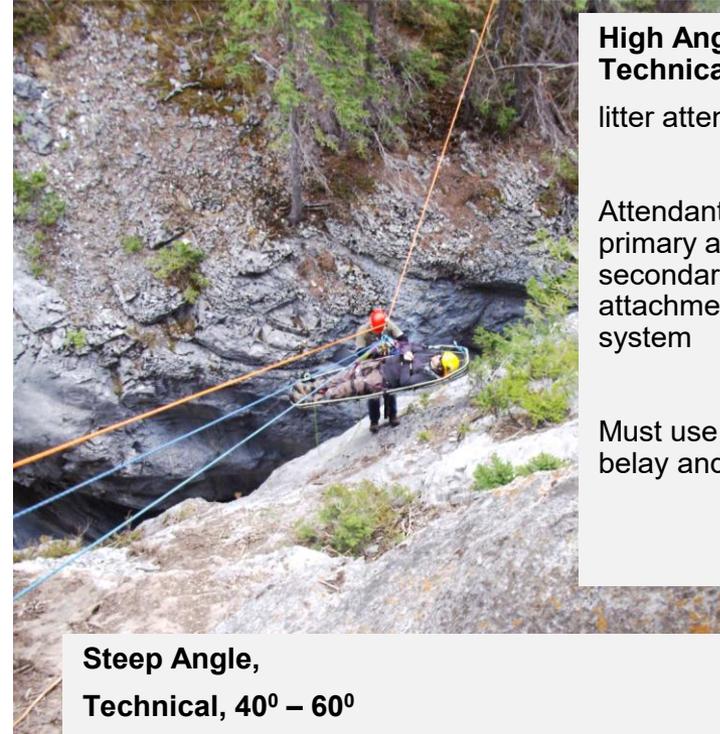
Low & Steep Angle Litter Operations - RCP Level



Litter Configuration

As with all aspects of rope rescue, depending on which school you adhere to, there are many ways to rig the litter package. To stay consistent with the underlying theme of this book, *keep it simple and applicable*, we will focus on one type of connection for the litter, namely, the use of the *Doubled Long Tail Bowline*. This will be the connecting loop, or *yoke*, for high angle vertical configurations as well as steep angle horizontal configurations.

The Type of Terrain Determines the Litter Configuration



**High Angle,
Technical, 60° – 90°**
litter attendant

Attendant must have primary and secondary attachments to the system

Must use a system belay and a mainline.

**Steep Angle,
Technical, 40° – 60°**

Typically, 1, or 3 litter bearers, depending if a steep angle highline is in use (as seen in this photo)

Bearer(s) must have primary and secondary attachments to the system

Must use a system belay and a mainline.

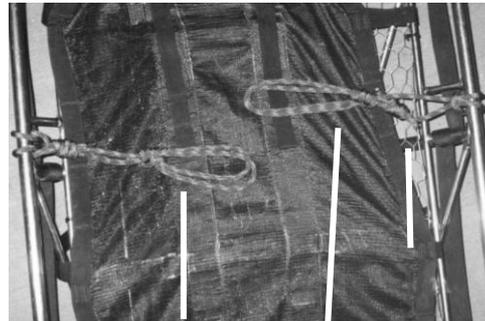
Steep Angle Litter Configuration for Steep Angle

The doubled bowline is the best knot at the yoke for a low exposure steep angle operation. It is easy to tie and inspect. The main line and the belay line are connected, via the doubled bowline, to the bottom litter struts, and candy striped to the litter rails. The resulting loop should form approximately, an equal-sided triangle that captures the litter at its strongest point.

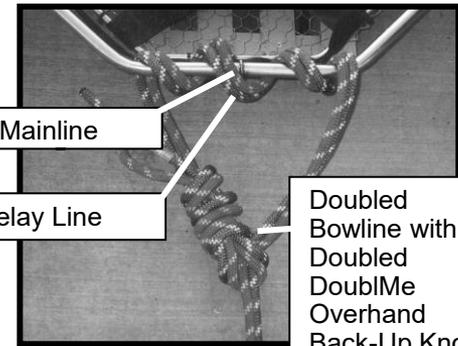


3rd bearer tie-in

With a 3-bearer configuration, 2 bearers are towards the top of the litter, and the 3rd bearer will tie-in at the very back of the litter using two adjustable tie-ins, forming a "V" off the back two struts of the litter. In all steep angle configurations, the bearers will connect the tie-ins to the waist "D" ring of their harness.



Adjustable bearer tie-ins.



Mainline
Belay Line
Doubled Bowline with A Doubled Overhand Back-Up Knot.

Adjustable bearer tie-ins:

Constructed from approximately 77" of 8mm accessory cord. A loop is formed by tying a double overhand bend. The adjustable loop is formed by a 3-2 prusik hitch on itself. (3 wraps on the top, and 2 wraps on the bottom) The tie-in is attached to the top rail of the litter with a girth hitch.

When using 4 bearers, two are attached towards the top, and two are attached near the bottom.

Use of the Skedco Stretcher for REMS Steep Angle

The concept of completing a steep angle extrication with a four-man REMS team is challenging at best. The traditional steep angle operation typically requires 3 litter bearers plus the personnel needed to operate the main and belay lines. The REMS four-man mandate simply does not account for a steep angle extrication in this traditional sense. The Skedco Stretcher offers a simple but effective real-life alternative

The litter bearer maintains two-points of contact by using a Purcell or some other form of approved adjustable connection. This is an individual twin-tension system. This balance between these two-points of contact with the Skedco Stretcher allow for greater of the rescue package over the steep angle terrain.

The back end of the Skedco Stretcher stays in contact with the terrain as the rescue package is dragged upward. Not as pretty, but, highly effective for minimal manpower during a moment when time is of the essence.

Normally, the long tails of the Bowline are used as backups for the rescue package. In this case, the tails serve as a primary connection for the two bearers. At the same time, vectoring the front of the stretcher off the terrain.

Double Long-Tail Bowline

