Evacuation

Putting the "Rescue" in Search and Rescue

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Objectives

* Identify roles within an evacuation
* Reduce patient stress
* Package patient in stretcher
* Safely carry a patient in a stretcher through difficult terrain

Evacuation

* The "Search" is getting to the subject
* The "Rescue" is getting them out

Stabilize, Package, Evacuate

* Need to have a plan BEFORE you find them (Planning Section)
* Need to accurately assess and communicate what is needed
* Need to treat the subject
* Need to package the subject
* Need to safely get them out

Walk them out? Or carry?

Walk them out? Or carry?

* Medical condition

* Mental state

* Ability to function / produce heat

* Urgency of situation

* Resources available

People

* Team Leader
* First Aider
* Advocate
* Stretcher Bearers
* Scouts
* Guide

* Up to 24 people to sustain carry in difficult terrain
    Ask for more people!

What We Plan For ...

Worst Case Scenario

Photo: Nick

What Often Happens

Medical Considerations

* Priority over other aspects of evacuation

* Monitoring of vital signs

* Access to injuries, extremities

* Risk of vomiting

* Hypothermia

Subject Safety

* Can't protect themselves

* More at risk than stretcher bearers

* Evaluate risks. How can they be mitigated?

Subject Comfort

* Warmth, they are not producing heat
* Knees bent
* Padding, too much is almost enough
* Eye and face protection
* Feet first & head up
* Grab handles and feet straps
* Water in and water out, give them opportunities

Subject Stress

* Loss of control → allow them to make decisions
* Speaking
*   Explain what's happening
*   Speak calmly
*   Speak with the subject, not about the subject (use name, not "him/her")
* Build rapport → Advocate
* Sight lines
* Claustrophobia

Types of Stretchers
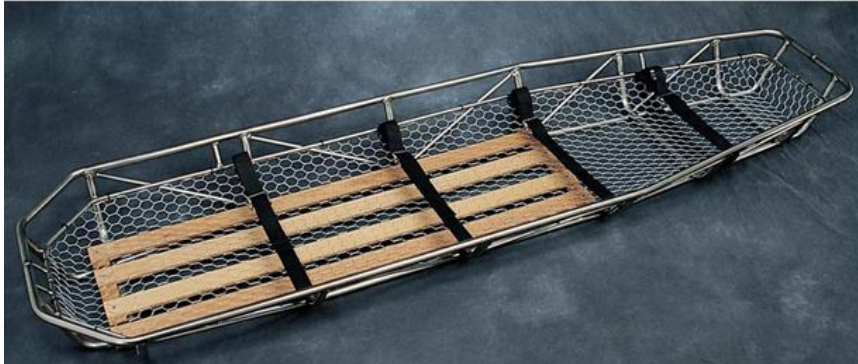
Packaging

Top: Patient
               Padding
               Thermarest (deflated, valve at head)
               Space blanket (when needed)
               Sleeping bag
               Tarp
               Lashing for the wrap
Bottom: Stretcher

Packaging

1. Adjust padding in hollows
2. Wrap space blanket
3. Close sleeping bag
4. Add blankets
5. Fold tarp
6. Lash the wrap
7. Inflate thermarest
8. Lash to stretcher
9. Face shield or sunglasses

Complex Packaging

* Spinal Restrictions
  * Advanced or Wilderness First Aid skill
  * Thermarest goes between patient and backboard

* Rope Rescue
  * Need for >15° slope or unstable terrain
  * Harness goes on patient
  * Stretcher lashing is more complicated

Carrying

* 6 stretcher bearers (or minimum 4)

* Pair up! – similar heights for opposite sides

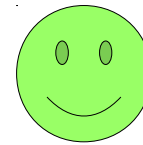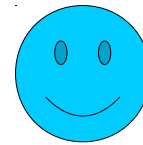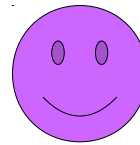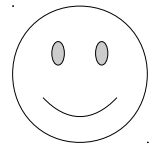* Keep stretcher level or head high

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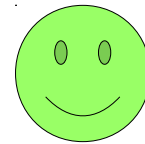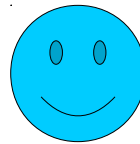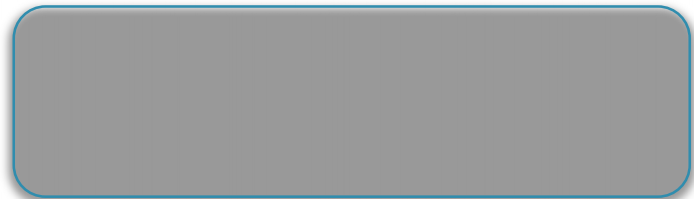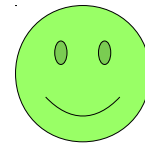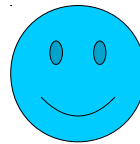
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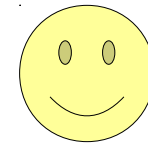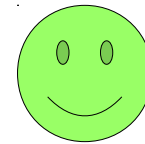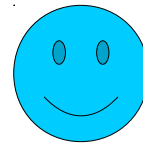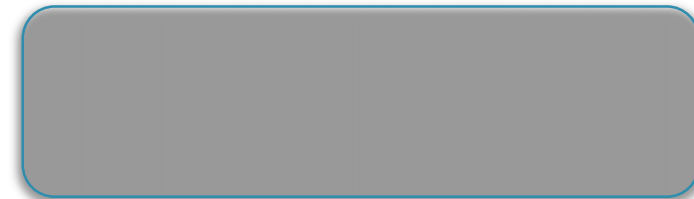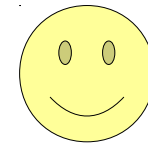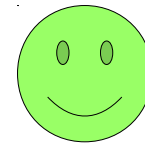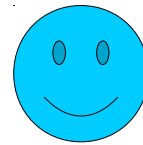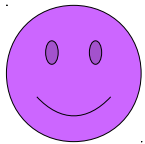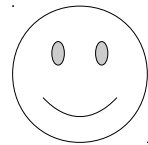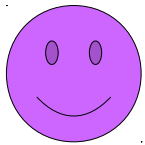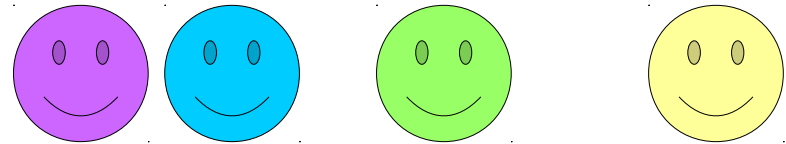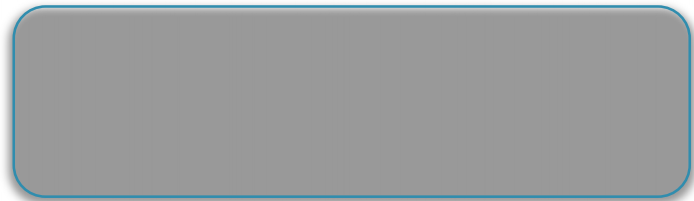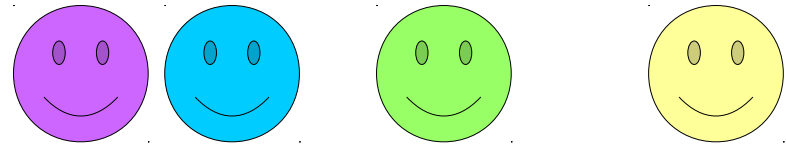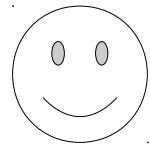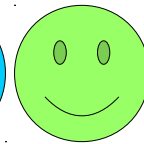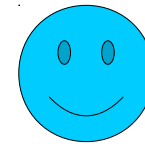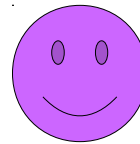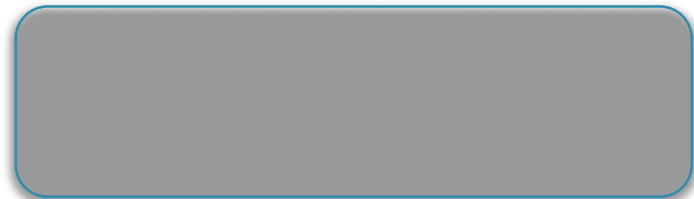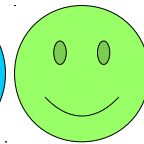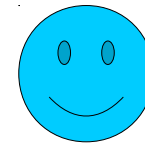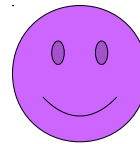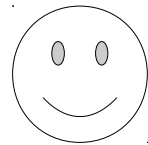
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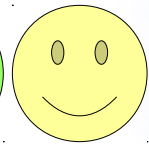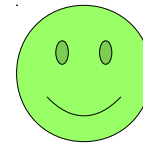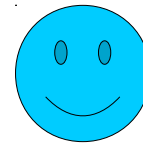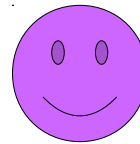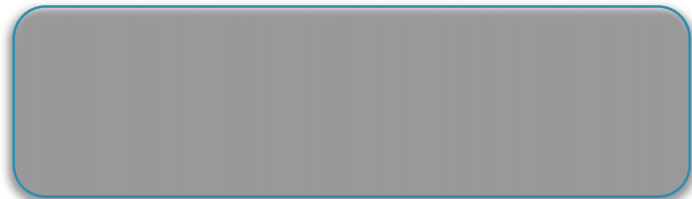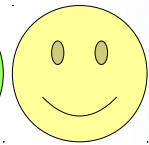
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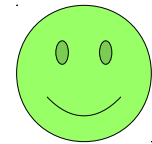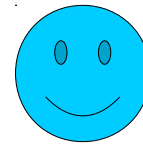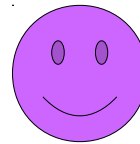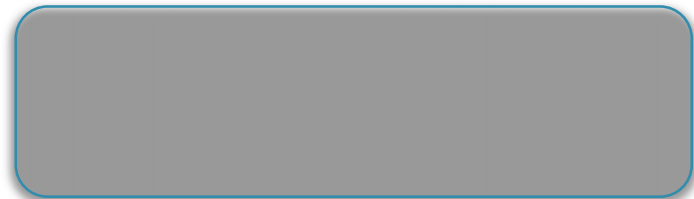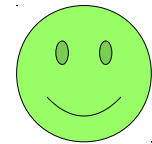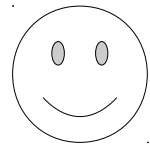
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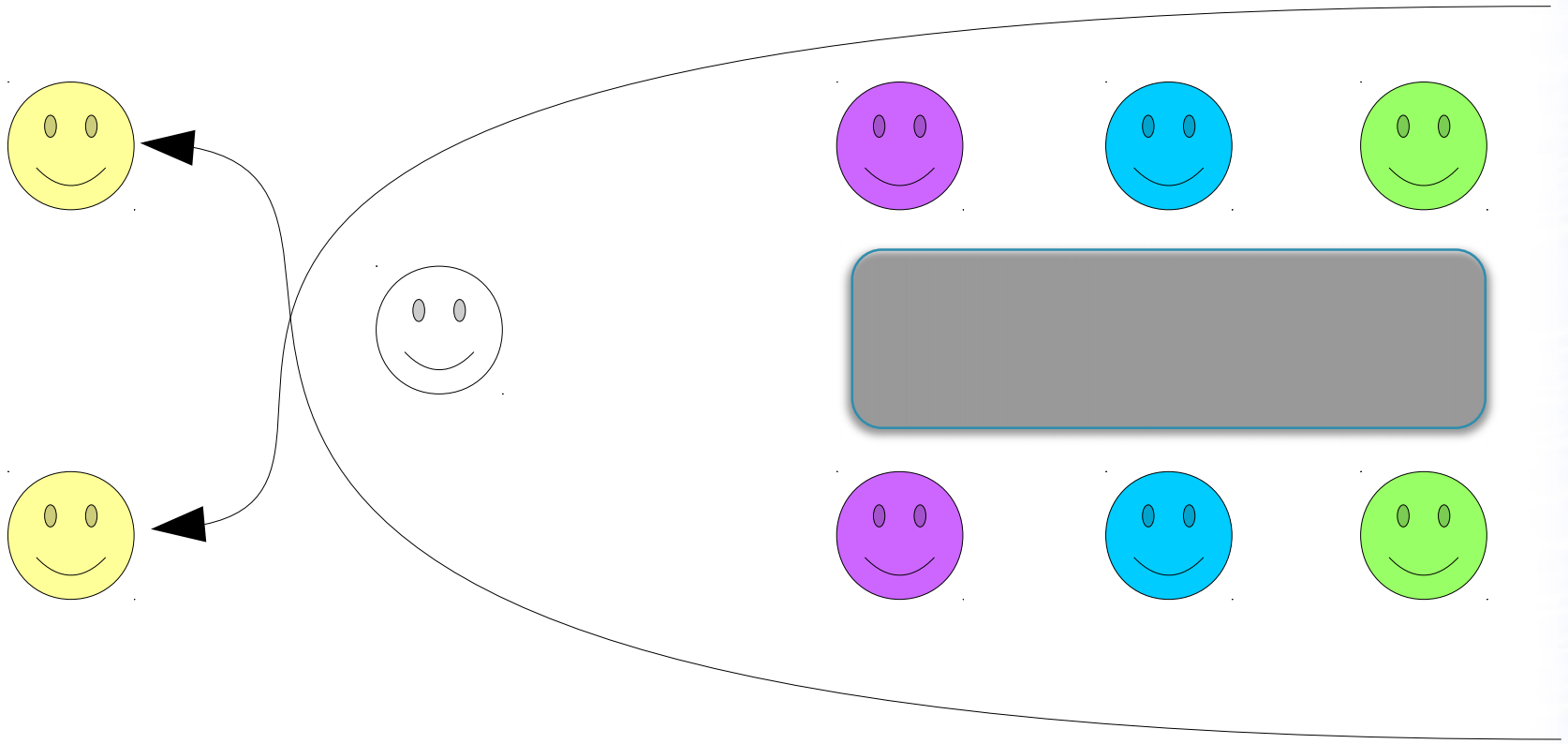
Rotation

Rotation

Carrying

* Bearer leader is the guide or a person at the head
* Good "positive" communication. Subjects have ears
* Regular rotations
* Anyone can call a break

Lift/Lower

✳ Safe lifting practice

✳ Lift/lower called by person at head
"on my call, we will lift"
"anyone not ready?"
"one, two, lift"

Webbing for Carry
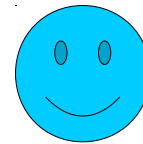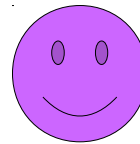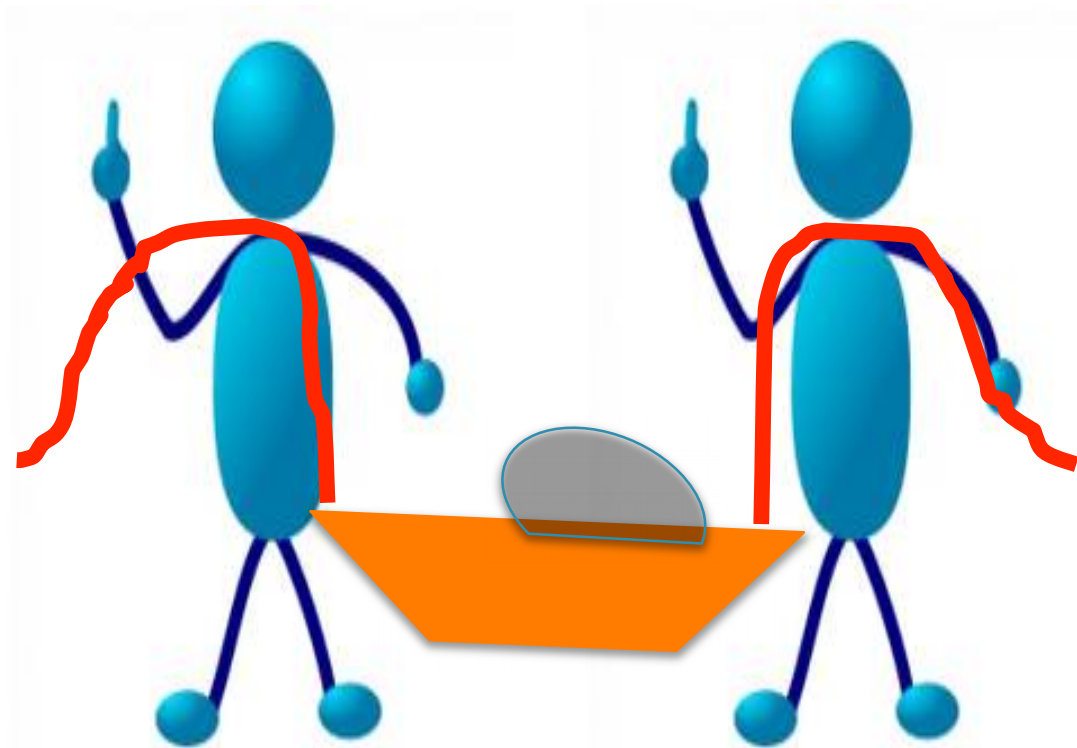
Route Selection

* Think before you move

* Look at the map discuss options

* Have a backup plan

* Send a team ahead to scout and to flag

Moving

* ## The Guide
  * Calls out hazards as they are approached

* ## Obstacles/difficult terrain
  * Bearers stay still
  * Pass stretcher forward to new bearers, over or through obstacle

* ## Choking patient
  * Lower stretcher, roll stretcher to one side

Exercise

Can you now ... ?

* Identify roles within an evacuation
* Reduce patient stress
* Package patient in stretcher
* Safely carry a patient in a stretcher through difficult terrain

Questions? Suggestions? Comments? Evacuation

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