



Users' Manual
FWELS **LIFESAVER**
Vertical Rescue Stretcher



January 2012
Document ID: 00124-AU-V01



Read and retain this Manual for future reference

DISCLAIMER

This manual contains general instructions for the use, operation and care of this product. The instructions are not all-inclusive. Safe and proper use of this product is solely at the discretion of the user. Safety information is included as a service to the user. All other safety measures taken by the user should be within and under consideration of applicable regulations. It is recommended that training on the proper use of this product be provided before using this product in an actual situation.

Retain this manual for future reference. Include it with the product in the event of transfer to new users. Additional electronic copies are available free upon request from Customer Service.

PROPRIETARY NOTICE

The information disclosed in this manual is the property of Ferno Australia and Ferno-Washington, Inc., Wilmington, Ohio, USA. Ferno Australia and Ferno-Washington reserve all patent rights, proprietary design rights, manufacturing rights, reproduction use rights, ad sales use rights hereto, and to any article disclosed therein except to the extent those rights are expressly granted to others or where not applicable to vendor proprietary parts.

© Copyright Ferno-Washington, Inc. and Ferno Australia. All Rights Reserved.

FERNO TECHNICAL SUPPORT & CUSTOMER SERVICE

Customer service and product support are important aspects of each Ferno product. Please have the product serial number available (if applicable) when calling and include it in all written communications. For technical support questions:

Telephone (toll free within Australia)	1800 804 647
Telephone	+61 7 3881 4999
Email	info@ferno.com.au
Fax	+61 7 3881 1125

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 - SAFETY INFORMATION4

 1.1 *Warning*4

 1.2 *Important*4

 1.3 *Bloodborne Disease Notice*4

 1.4 *Safety Labels*4

2 - OPERATOR SKILLS AND TRAINING5

 2.1 *Skills*5

 2.2 *Training*5

3 - ABOUT THE STRETCHER.....6

 3.1 *Description*6

 3.2 *Stretcher Components*6

 3.3 *General Specifications*6

4 - GUIDELINES FOR USE7

5 - OPERATION OF STRETCHER.....7

 5.1 *Before placing into service*7

 5.2 *Preparing the stretcher for use*7

 5.3 *Patient placement*7

 5.4 *Manually lifting a casualty*8

 5.5 *Vertical/ Horizontal Lifting*8

6 - MAINTAINING THE STRETCHER.....9

 6.1 *Maintenance Schedule*9

 6.2 *Stretcher Longevity*9

 6.3 *Disinfecting and Cleaning*9

 6.4 *Inspecting the Stretcher*9

7 - LIMITED WARRANTY.....10

Limited Warranty Summary 10

Limited Warranty Obligation 10

8 - FERNO CUSTOMER SERVICE10

TRAINING RECORD..... 11

MAINTENANCE RECORD..... 11

1 - SAFETY INFORMATION

1.1 Warning

The following warnings appear in this manual.

WARNING

Untrained operators can cause injury or be injured. Permit only trained personnel to operate the stretcher.

Improper use of the stretcher can cause injury. Use the bridle only for the purpose described in this manual.

Improper operation can cause injury. Operate the stretcher only as described in this manual.

An unrestrained or improperly restrained patient can be injured. Secure the patient in the stretcher with a restraint system suitable to the rescue situation.

Modifying the stretcher can cause injury and damage. Use the stretcher only as manufactured and sold by Ferno.

Improper maintenance can cause injury or damage. Maintain the stretcher only as described in this manual.

Improper parts and service can cause injury. Use only Ferno approved parts and service on the stretcher.

An unattended patient can be injured. Stay with the patient at all times.

Attaching improper or inappropriate items to the stretcher can cause injury. Use only Ferno approved items on the stretcher.

1.2 Important

Boxes like the one below emphasise important information.

Important

Rescue procedures using ropes, harnesses, bridles and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) require special skills and are potentially hazardous activities. No rescue personnel should attempt such rescue procedures unless he or she has received professional instruction and training.

Important

Ensure all straps are fastened and tensioned. DO NOT over tension. Allow for at least one 'flat' hand space between the strap and the patient's body.

1.3 Bloodborne Disease Notice

To reduce the risk of exposure to bloodborne diseases such as HIV-1 and hepatitis when using the stretcher, follow the disinfecting and cleaning instructions in this manual.

1.4 Safety Labels

Labels place important information from the Users' Manual on the stretcher. Read and follow label instructions. Replace worn or damaged labels immediately. The product information label is affixed to the middle carry handle and contains important information regarding the unit and date of manufacture.

A sample of the product label is illustrated below:



2 - OPERATOR SKILLS AND TRAINING

2.1 Skills

1. Operators using the stretcher need:
 - A working knowledge of emergency patient-handling procedures.
 - The ability to assist the patient.
 - A complete understanding of the procedures described in this manual.
 - Follow local protocols and guidelines as set down by your organisation

2.2 Training

Trainees need to:

- Follow a training program designed or approved by their training officer.
- Read this manual. For additional free users' manuals, contact Ferno Customer Service.
- Practice with the stretcher before using it in regular service.
- Be evaluated and tested on their understanding of the stretcher.
- Record their training information. A form is provided on page 11.

WARNING

Untrained operators can cause injury or be injured. Permit only trained personnel to operate the stretcher.

Important

Rescue procedures using ropes, harnesses, bridles and other Personal Protective Equipment require special skills and are potentially hazardous activities. No rescue personnel should attempt such rescue procedures unless he or she has received professional instruction and training.

3 - ABOUT THE STRETCHER

3.1 Description

The FWELS LifeSaver Rescue Stretcher (referred to as the stretcher throughout this manual) is designed for the recovery of patients from difficult, unconventional scenarios including confined spaces, horizontal and vertical rescue.

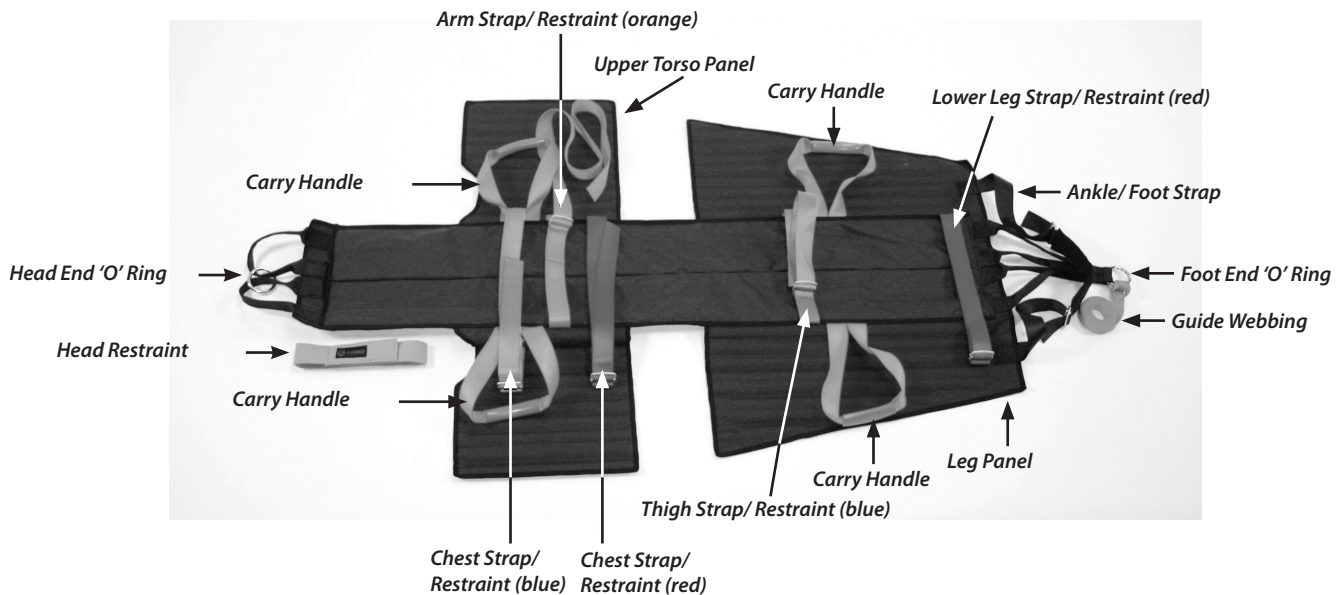
! WARNING

Untrained Operators can cause injury or be injured. Permit only trained personnel to operate the stretcher.

**159 kg
350 lb**

HORIZONTAL & VERTICAL LIFTING LOAD LIMIT

3.2 Stretcher Components



3.3 General Specifications

Product Code	FWELS
Length	163 cm/ 64 inches
Width	105 cm/ 41 inches
Weight	5.1 kg/ 11 lbs
Rated Load Limit	Horizontal: 159 kg/ 350 lbs
	Vertical: 159 kg/ 350 lbs
<i>Ferno and manufacturers of components reserve the right to change specifications without notice.</i>	

General specifications are rounded to the nearest whole number. Metric conversions are calculated before rounding the English measurements. For more information, contact Ferno Customer Service or your Ferno distributor.

USERS' MANUAL

For additional free Users' Manuals, please call Ferno Customer Service in Australia on 1800 804 647 or contact your Ferno distributor.

STRETCHER COMPONENTS		
Head End O Ring	Foot End O Ring	Guide Rope (Web)
Chest Straps (2)	Arm Strap	Thigh Strap
Ankle/ Foot Strap	Securing buckles (5)	Carry Handles (4)
Head Restraint	Upper Torso Panels	Leg Panels

4 - GUIDELINES FOR USE

- Using the stretcher requires a minimum of two trained operators. In most situations, operators will want or need additional help.
- Follow standard emergency patient-handling procedures when using the stretcher.
- Stay with the patient at all times. Always use the patient restraints provided, as well as a supplementary restraining system as per your training and team protocols, applicable to the situation.
- Personnel using the stretcher in high-angle environments are responsible for learning the proper techniques involved, and for selecting the equipment and procedures best suited to the rescue situation.

5 - OPERATION OF STRETCHER

5.1 Before placing into service

- Remove stretcher from the bag, record serial numbers and other relevant information.
- Thoroughly inspect the stretcher and ensure it is damage free.
- Before and after each use, inspect the stretcher buckles, materials and webbing components. If there are any signs of damage, DO NOT use the stretcher and remove it from service immediately.

- The stretcher should be stored in a cool, dry place out of direct sunlight or damp conditions.

WARNING

Untrained operators can cause injury or be injured. Permit only trained personnel to operate the stretcher.

5.2 Preparing the stretcher for use

1. Lay the stretcher on the ground with the clear side (side without restraints and handles) facing upwards.
2. Position the stretcher beside the patient.
3. Unfasten the head strap and patient restraining straps.
4. The stretcher is now ready for use.

5.3 Patient placement

1. Using accepted patient handling techniques, position the casualty on the stretcher ensuring the forehead is positioned above the adjustable head restraint.
2. Fasten in position using the Velcro strap (Fig 1)



Fig 1

3. Secure the patient on the stretcher by positioning the chest panels around the upper torso and fastening the upper and lower (blue and red) Chest Straps (Fig 2)



Fig 2

4. Position the leg panels around the patient's legs and firmly fasten the Thigh Strap (blue) and Lower Leg Strap (red). Refer to Fig 3.

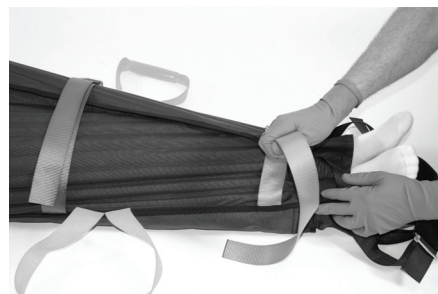


Fig 3

5.3 Patient placement continued

- 5. For added patient security, a padded ankle strap is applied. Wrap the black strap around the hollow of the foot or boot and tighten (Fig 4).



Fig 4

- 6. Check all straps are securely fastened and tighten as necessary. The patient is now ready for evacuation (Fig 5).



Fig 5

Important

Ensure all straps are fastened and tensioned. DO NOT over tension. Allow for at least one 'flat' hand space between the strap and the patient's body.

5.4 Manually lifting a casualty

Refer to local protocols and guidelines regarding manual handling and lifting of persons or objects. The stretcher is fitted with four carry handles. There should be a minimum of two people carrying the stretcher but one person on each carry handle (four people) is recommended.

Each operator to grasp a carry handle in palm of hand and in a coordinated action, lift stretcher and carry as required.

Using additional help: Operators should maintain control of the stretcher and direct any helpers or assistants.

5.5 Vertical/ Horizontal Lifting

High angle and rope-access rescue can involve any combination of ropes, winches, pulleys, litter bridles, belay devices and many other specialised items and devices.

Proper and safe use of these tools requires professional instruction and training. When using high-angle or rope-access equipment with the stretcher, ensure the equipment has an adequate load-rating, and that it is at least as great as that of the stretcher.

During a high-angle rescue, the stretcher may be oriented vertically or horizontally using the head and foot end O rings. Secure the patient in the stretcher so that he/ she does not slip in any direction, or accidentally come out of the stretcher.

NOTE: The guide rope/ web supplied is designed for guiding only. When suspending a casualty, ensure you use a rope specifically designed for that purpose.

Important

Rescue procedures using ropes, harnesses, bridles and other Personal Protective Equipment require special skills and are potentially hazardous activities. No rescue personnel should attempt such rescue procedures unless he or she has received professional instruction and training.

6 - MAINTAINING THE STRETCHER

6.1 Maintenance Schedule

The stretcher requires regular maintenance. Set up and follow a maintenance schedule. A form is provided on page 11. The schedule below represents minimum maintenance and you should modify your own program based on your needs.

Over and above an inspection prior to and after each use, the stretcher must be inspected by a competent person every 6 months and must be recorded in the equipment inspection manual for this device.

	Each Use	As Needed	Each Month
Disinfecting	■		
Cleaning		■	
Inspecting	■		

When using maintenance products, follow the manufacturers' directions and read the manufacturers' material safety data sheets.

WARNING

Improper maintenance can cause injury. Maintain the stretcher only as described in this manual.

Important

Disinfectants and cleaners containing bleach, phenolics, or iodines can cause damage. Disinfect and clean only with products that do not contain these chemicals.

6.2 Stretcher Longevity

The stretcher has a 10 year life span provided the stretcher does not sustain any damage during this period. After 10 years, the stretcher must be removed from service.

6.3 Disinfecting and Cleaning

1. Hand wash the stretcher in warm water with a mild soap (Ferno recommend Rope & Harness Wash). Once stains are removed, rinse in clear water. DO NOT use excessive force or abrasive items in the cleaning process. Do not use cleaners that contain bleach, phenolics or iodines.
2. Once the stretcher is clean, hang to dry in a warm, well ventilated area away from direct sunlight, or air dry near a heat source. Do not tumble dry.
3. Once completely dry, inspect the entire stretcher and ensure all components are operational and in good condition.

6.4 Inspecting the Stretcher

After each use, check the stretcher for the following:

- Are all components present?
- Is all webbing in good condition with no cuts or frayed edges?
- Is webbing stitching in good condition with no frayed or broken threads?
- Are the adjustment buckles operational and do they insert and release smoothly?
- Is the material of the stretcher intact and not torn or excessively worn?
- Are the lifting attachment points in a good condition and free from any wear, tear or fraying?

If inspection shows damage or excessive wear, remove the stretcher from service and retire it. Do not attempt to repair or replace any materials or components.

7 - LIMITED WARRANTY

Limited Warranty Summary

Ferno-Washington, Inc. (Ferno), warrants the products we manufacture to be free from defects in material and workmanship for one year except as follows:

(A) Soft goods (webbing, vinyl, fabric, foam, etc.) are warranted for 90 days.

This limited warranty applies when you use and care for the product properly. If the product is not used and cared for properly, the warranty is void. The warranty period begins the day the product is shipped from Ferno or the day you receive it if you have proof of the delivery date. Shipping charges are not covered by the limited warranty. We are not liable for shipping damages or damages sustained through using the product.

Limited Warranty Obligation

If a product or part is proven to be defective, Ferno will repair or replace it. At our option, we will refund the product's purchase price. The purchaser accepts these terms in lieu of all damages.

This is a summary of the limited warranty. The actual terms and conditions of the limited warranty, and the limitations of liability and disclaimers, are available upon request by calling Customer Service.

8 - FERNO CUSTOMER SERVICE

Customer relations and product support are important aspects of each Ferno product.

For assistance with the stretcher please contact your Ferno distributor, or Ferno Customer Service as listed below:

Australia (Toll Free within Australia)	1800 804 647
Telephone	+61 7 3881 4999
Telephone (Worldwide)	1.937.382.1451
Email	info@ferno.com.au
Internet	www.ferno.com.au

TRAINING RECORD

Date	Name	Training Method

MAINTENANCE RECORD

Date	Maintenance Performed	By