

## CIVIL DEFENCE ORGANISATION

SOUTH AUSTRALIATHE LADDER SLIDEINTRODUCTION

Where the height of a window still permits, a stretcher may be lowered by attaching restraining ropes to the head and tilting it so that it slides down an inclined ladder. Pick handles are passed through the stretcher 'Ds' so as to facilitate its sliding down the ladder.

This method cannot, however, be used when the nature of the casualty's injuries necessitates a stretcher being kept in a horizontal position.

METHOD

(a) The ladder is positioned, extended and placed in position against the building. For this rescue technique it will be necessary to position the ladder out at a much greater angle to the building as is the case when climbing ladders. The head of the ladder should be lashed or, alternatively the foot.

(b) Two men, 2 & 3 mount the ladder, taking with them the necessary equipment for dealing with the casualty, who must be blanketed and lashed to the stretcher.

In addition, two (2) pick handles, for insertion through the D's of the stretcher, and at least two (2) 40 ft. lashings, or more if required according to height, must be taken up by 2 & 3.

(c) With the casualty securely lashed to the stretcher, the pick handle is passed through the top 'D' of the stretcher and held in position by the restraining lines which, after they have been fastened through the D's and over the handles of the stretcher by bowlines, are given a round-turn on the pick handle, followed by a half-hitch on the handles of the stretcher.

Where the opening is narrow, the pick handle may have to be inserted through the top D's, as the stretcher is passed through the opening.

(d) The third man, 1, mounts the ladder when everything is in readiness to slide and prepares to receive the foot of the stretcher as it is passed out to him.

The other two men, 4 & 5, take up position at ground level, one 'footing' the ladder and the other acting as a human support, or brace, under the back of the ladder, so as to take part of the strain. This could possibly even prevent the ladder from breaking.

(e) The man on the ladder takes a firm grasp of the handles at the foot of the stretcher and eases it gently over any obstructions as he slowly descends, while the men at the top, controlling the restraining lines, can exert added 'lift' to ease the head over such obstructions.

(f) When sufficiently near to ground level, for the two (2) men to assist they move around to the sides of the ladder, ready to take charge of the stretcher as it descends, thus easing the weight strain on the men at the top. They then gently lower it to the ground, remove the restraining lines and pick handles and then carry the stretcher away.

A pick handle at each end of the stretcher is necessary. The lower one to prevent the lower traverse bar from fouling any part of the ladder thus tending to close the stretcher. It also helps to keep the stretcher and lashing clear of the ladder.

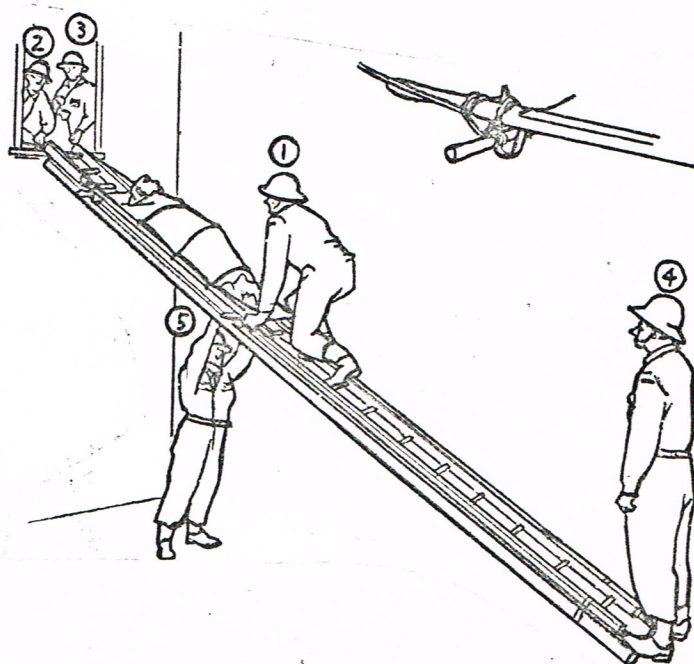
The top one enables the stretcher to slide smoothly on the strings of the ladder, but it must be secured with equal projection at each side.

These pick handles raise the stretcher off the ladder sufficiently to prevent the sag in the canvas, due to the weight of the casualty, bumping on the rungs of the ladder.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED AND PRECAUTIONS

Care in travelling over debris and erecting ladders may need a certain amount of selective debris clearance. Unsafe floors and/or walls may require shoring. Injuries to casualties will have a bearing on the method of lowering to be adopted. Hospital cases may have to be lowered in their beds.

Practice in handling ladders is essential.



Ladder Slide - using 5 men

It is NOT suggested that this, or any other, rescue should be treated as a drill movement.

To possibly facilitate teaching in this method of rescue from a height, the Ladder Slide has been outlined on the next page, as a drill, only, so that a full Rescue Party of eight (8) men can be exercised.

Remember, the drill as outlined, is for a full party of 8, whereas in an actual emergency, the full Party may not be available.

LADDER SLIDE DRILL - (8 MEN)

RESCUE PARTY COMMAND:

- No. 1 Party Leader
- No. 2 Deputy Party Leader
- No. 3 Driver - storeman
- Nos. 4 to 8 Rescue Party Men.

DRILL DUTIES FOR LADDER SLIDE:

- Nos. 6, 7 & 8 (Ladder Crew), provide and position ladder. (Nos. 6, 7 & 8 take positions of ladder crew 1, 2 and 3 respectively.)
- No. 1 Ascends, makes recce, descends, instructs Party.
- No. 2 Ascends with two blankets, (slung over shoulder), prepares and blankets stretcher.
- No. 4 Ascends with 3 x 40 ft. lashings (hung over arms or slung over shoulder), hauls up stretcher and Head pick-handle.)
- No. 5 Attaches stretcher and any other gear to line for No. 4 (clove hitch and half hitch or timber hitch). Stands by to assist.
- No. 3 Hands out gear from Rescue Vehicle - remains within hailing distance of vehicle.
- Nos. 6, 7 & 8 Re-position ladder for slide, (extend and bring foot out from building).
- No. 6 Ascends and lashes head of ladder.
- Nos. 2 & 4 Load casualty on stretcher, lash, attach lowering lines, insert Head pick-handle.
- No. 5 Ascends ladder, inserts Foot pick-handle, supports sliding stretcher in descent.
- Nos. 2 & 4 Pay out lowering lines.
- No. 7 Braces under-side of ladder.
- Nos. 5, 6 & 8 Release stretcher.
- Nos. 5 & 7 Transport casualty - hand over to First Aid Party and return to Rescue Party.
- Nos. 6 & 8 Re-position ladder.
- Nos. 2 & 4 Descend ladder.
- Nos. 6, 7 & 8 Make up ladder.
- No. 3 Makes up equipment - ropes, etc. - check area for any gear - check gear on vehicle.