

### MSF: A broken stretcher could have led to injury

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The Marine Safety Forum (MSF) published [Safety Alert 24-09](#) relating to a broken stretcher.

#### What happened?

A medevac from a vessel required a patient to be transferred to the hospital. As the patient was being moved to a hospital bed, the stretcher cracked into two pieces with the patient on it. The patient was not further injured, but a more serious situation could have arisen had the patient been suffering from a back injury.



#### What went wrong?

On investigation it was discovered that the stretcher was 13 years old. When the manufacturer was contacted about the incident, they advised that this type of stretcher has a 'life' of five years and then should be replaced (stretcher 'lives' may vary depending on type and manufacturer).

#### Corrective actions taken / Recommendations

Stretchers should be examined and replaced if the shelf life has expired (this can be challenging as some manufacturers will not give a shelf life and advise that usage and visual examination will determine if the stretcher needs to be replaced or not).

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