

SPOTLIGHT ON HILLS AND DALES

PRODUCTION I:

In the fall of 2006, the co-workers of Production 1 began assembly of Model 71 Series basket stretchers for Ferno-Washington. These rescue stretchers are made to help transport people from hard to get to areas to safe areas where they can receive medical treatment. Watch for these stretchers being used during disasters or in disaster movies.

The stretchers come pre-molded to Highco. They are approximately seven foot long. The stretchers are then completed in their entirety at the workshop. Once completed, they are shipped back to Ferno, where they are boxed and shipped to the consumer. Japan and France are only a couple examples of frequent buyers of the stretchers. Seventy percent of all orders are international.

There are three different types of stretchers assembled at the workshop. The regular 71 stretcher is produced the most. It is a solid plastic unit that reminds you of a small boat. The 71 split-stretcher is a regular stretcher that is cut in half (for easier storage). The least produced stretcher is the 71-miner stretcher. It has no exposed metal with wooden sleds on the bottom to help it move safely through the coal mines.

When production started in 2006, ten to twenty stretchers were produced a week. At this time, Production 1 produces sixty to eighty stretchers a week. Overall to date, approximately four thousand two hundred (4,200) stretchers have been made. During each workday, fifteen to twenty workers perform various tasks on the stretchers. Duties include building the frame, tagging, drilling, riveting, sweeping, cleaning, and roping of the product. Each completed stretcher is also shipped with an envelope assembled in production 1. The contents of each envelope include restraints, operator's manual, customer response card, and footboard.

The work performed in Production 1 reflects much time, effort, and teamwork to produce a product that is widely used and needed. Keep up the good work.