



2009 Innovation Awards

By Mike Smith, BS, MICP

Excellence from EMS EXPO...the Top 20 Products for 2009

This year's EMS EXPO sent me flying all the way to the other side of the continent. More specifically, it took me to the Southeast corner of the country, to Atlanta, Georgia. Aside from the perpetually rainy weather, I was greeted with a healthy serving of good old southern hospitality and fine southern cooking (hmmmm, peach cobbler twice). I was also greeted with an exhibition hall chock-full of the latest and greatest tools of our trade. Read on to find out just exactly which made the cut to be selected as a Top 20 Product Pick for 2009.

Triangle of Safety from Road Rescue

While your ambulance may be the base of operations from which you operate, you must never forget that the biggest difference from a traditional office is that yours is usually moving while you are working in it. Strangely, most of us think that we are pretty safe as we



hurtle down the road. Of course, ambulance crash data tells a far different story, and if you are unsecured in an ambulance that is involved in even a moderate crash, your chance of getting injured is almost a certainty.

In an effort to help make vehicles safer, Road Rescue has introduced the Triangle of Safety, whereby they have combined technology with the layout of the patient care compartment to create a safer work environment.

To do this, Road Rescue took a quantum leap and removed the bench seat, which is arguably one of the most useless ideas ever, since rarely, if ever, is a second patient transported in that position. This allows for a third seat to be placed and increases overall workspace.

The Triangle of Safety involves several different components. A LED display panel provides the driver with valuable information: A red LED means someone is in the seat but not buckled in; a yellow LED indicates the belt is buckled but no one is seated; a green LED indicates to the driver that the person is both seated and buckled in. An additional audible alarm sounds when occupant(s) are seated but not buckled in.

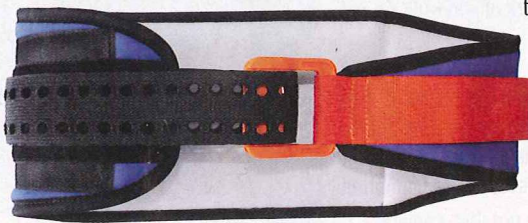
All three seats swivel, allowing providers to face forward for optimum safety, but they can rotate toward the patient for maximum access to provide patient care. Each seat can lock in any of four different positions, giving you multiple choices while still being secured in the seat.

Ambulance safety will not simply occur on its own. It will require that our workforce be more committed to the concept and then utilize innovations like the Triangle of Safety concept from Road Rescue.

For more: www.roadrescue.com; 843/676-2900. Circle 51 on Reader Service Card

Sam Pelvic Sling II from SAM Medical Products

Of all the many injuries we encounter in EMS, pelvic fractures seem to create more outright pain and suffering than almost anything else, other than burns. In addition, an unstable pelvis can be incredibly difficult to manage if for no other reason than a pelvic fracture is rarely an isolated injury. Put any human being through a mechanical event that can fracture a pelvis, and it is almost 100% certain



there are other significant injuries as well. Those other injuries can complicate matters further, given that a pelvic fracture is a potentially life-threatening injury.

To best meet the challenge of splinting a fractured pelvis, you need a splint with some unique characteristics, and that points toward the SAM Pelvic Sling II from SAM Medical Products. Building on the success of their original pelvic sling, this generation is even more compact and easy to use, requiring just three steps to place and secure the splint. The splint is remarkably thin and features a low-friction posterior slider that facilitates easier placement and removal. Once in place, the patented Autostop buckle will not allow a compression force greater than 33

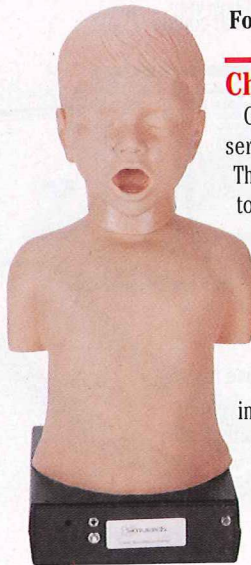
lbs., thus preventing inadvertent overtightening.

The Sam Pelvic Sling II is a one-piece reusable device that fits approximately 98% of the adult population. Because it is radiolucent, x-rays can be taken without putting the patient through the pain and misery of removal and reapplication.

To optimize your patient care efforts when a pelvic fracture is present, look to a splint that has scientifically and clinically been shown to stabilize pelvic fractures: the SAM Pelvic Sling II.

For more: www.sammedical.com; 800/818-4726. Circle 52 on Reader Service Card

Child Heart and Lung Sounds Trainer from Simulaids



Given the relative infrequency with which field providers encounter really sick or injured kids, ANY training tool, device or service that could potentially improve the care we provide to these often-challenging patients catches my eye immediately.

The Child Heart and Lungs Sounds Trainer from Simulaids is one of those tools. The manikin comes fully assembled and mounted to a sturdy base that allows easy access for students to perform assessments. All the software comes already installed, making the trainer a turn-key operation.

The trainer operates from a wireless remote or can be hardwired to a monitor and a mouse. A collection of 10 lung speakers and a heart speaker are positioned anatomically in the correct locations for use during a pediatric assessment.

The menu offers a diverse range of assessment opportunities, with a total of 23 choices overall. There are 10 different lung sounds, including asthma, pneumonia, stridor, inspiratory crackles, etc.; seven options in heart sounds, including atrial and ventricular septal defect, congenital aortic stenosis and patent ductus arteriosus; and six so-called voice sounds, including cough, crying, gasp, gurgling, etc. Both the lung and heart sounds are reasonably realistic, but the voice sounds (especially crying) are not quite as realistic. Then again, it's the lung and heart sounds that make up the backbone of what this product has to offer.

The trainer comes with a power cord, informative yet reasonably simple user reference materials and a carry case. Interested in beefing up that peds heart and lung sounds fund of knowledge? Then check this little guy out.

For more: www.simulaids.com; 800/431-4310. Circle 53 on Reader Service Card