

JumpBags - Whats the Big Deal?

For those of you who have worked out of a jumpbag at the scene of any medical emergency (and I imagine that's many of you), you will know that your jumpbag is potentially your patient's lifeline. Yes I agree that the thinking behind the use of the equipment in your jumpbag is equally important. I remember a legend of a professor telling me that it's not the cost of the stethoscope that matters, but rather what is found in-between the earpieces... too true Prof...



Having worked as a Paramedic in South Africa and abroad, I have seen a fair number of variations in jumpbag design and contents. No matter where you work, the one thing I have found to be universal is how much equipment we try and cram into them. When I was working in the USA, I actually came across a jumpbag that I literally could not lift. Can you believe it? To this day, I cannot fathom what the point is in that...can you imagine the dialogue? "Yes we have a jumpbag. No we can't bring it to you. Yes we are real medics. No, today is not the 1st of April". Oh my goodness, I cannot help but giggle thinking about that one. So, in a nutshell, some very careful thought has to go into what goes into the jumpbag. I'll chat some more about that a little later...

One of the other interesting trends I have noticed is how different places put different emphasis on jumpbag size. I have seen services where nothing short of two medics are required to carry the bag, and in other places where you cannot see the bag until the medic points it out attached to his belt. "That's your jumpbag?" "But it's soooooo teeny weeny"....Reply: "Yes I know it's small, but it gets the job done". . No further comment for obvious reasons

So the question is what makes a good jumpbag? In my humble opinion, there are three qualities that are required to produce a good jumpbag:

1. Quality raw materials that can stand up to the rigours of the Emergency Medical Services environment
2. A design that is sufficient to hold a wide range of equipment and where equipment can easily be accessed without having to unpack the entire bag at every call
3. A compact packing list that still provides for the wide range of treatment plans required in the Emergency Medical Services

Easier said than done is probably what you are thinking, right? Okay so let's take a look at what Be Safe Paramedical have done to ensure that not only are our jumpbags excellent in quality and design, but also have in my opinion, the best packing list on the market. Simply put, you won't find the items we have in our jumpbags in any other bag... anywhere. Let's be frank here, many advanced life support jumpbags marketed out there have simply become glorified first aid kits containing piles of dressings and bandages and not much else. What's the point in that? You can't intubate, perform a surgical airway or do an emergency delivery with a bandage. You need real tools and not just tools, but good quality tools...

So what makes Be Safe Paramedical jumpbags a cut above the rest?

The outside scoop...

Let's start on the outside. The outer covering on our jumpbags consists of 1680D heavy duty



Polyester with a PVC inner coating. This combination has been specifically chosen for two reasons, the bag needs to be tough and it needs to be as water resistant as possible. The quality of your jumpbag should not be the determinant in deciding where you should treat the patient. Your jumpbag needs to go where you go, wherever that may be...Rain or shine...

Safety on any emergency scene is of paramount importance to the emergency care providers, so Be Safe Paramedical have added in a good dose of reflective tape and all logos and the large star of life located on the front pouch are all reflective. So in essence, not only will our jumpbags provide you with access to a broad range of equipment, but will also provide high visibility while on scene. This is a crucial aspect of not only protecting your patient, but also protecting the responders treating the patient.

Barr our Trauma pack, all of our bags have outside pouches with zippers, where important and regularly utilised equipment can be accessed without having to open up the entire bag.

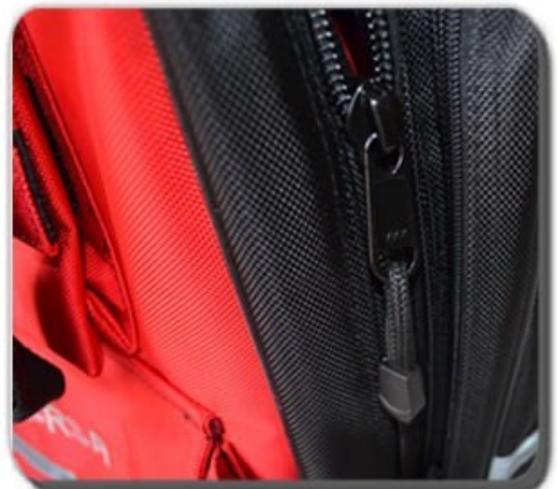
All of our bags can be carried as a hand pack or as a back pack. For anyone (including myself) who has had to walk 3km down a train track to get to a train casualty, while carrying a multitude of equipment will agree that having a well-balanced jumpbag on your back may get you to the patient in a reasonable state, with enough energy to carry out the care required to save the patient. That is what it is all about... That is why we are here...



The inside scoop...

Okay, so I know that after having checked out the exterior of this beauty, you are waiting in anticipation to see what's on the inside. So let's take a look what we have to offer.

The interior of our bags are manufactured from 600D polyester and all zippers are high quality YKK zippers. This not only means that the interior and interior bags are strong, but the zippers can handle the pressures associated with continuous use. An excellent combination of strength and durability means that our jumpbags can stand up to the rigorous EMS environment and provide long-term service. Yes, realistically, like with all manufacturing processes we sometimes get those few bags that slip through and require replacement due to a



manufacturing flaw, however you can rest assured that as a company, we take ownership of what we supply. If it's faulty due to a manufacturing flaw, we'll replace it and we will do it gladly...

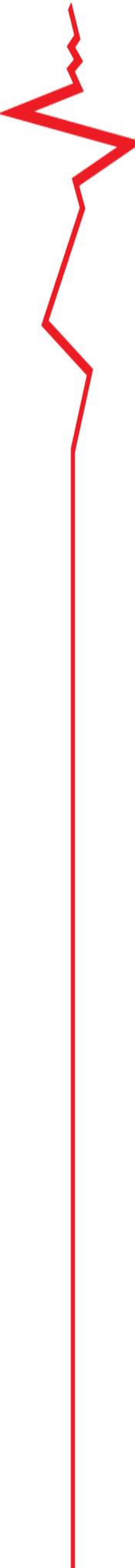
Each of our jumpbags bags have a range of internal bags which consist of a combination of solid nylon and nylon bags with transparent covers. The number of internal bags is proportional to the size and model of the jumpbag, however the common denominator in all of our bags is that they provide plenty of packing space. In addition, our Advanced Life Support Bag includes a removable airway, diagnostic and drug bag as part of the standard bag.



The Contents...

Our entire range of jumpbags are available either as a bag only or fully stocked option. As mentioned at the beginning of this article, the packing list of a jumpbag can dramatically influence the capacity of what can be done on patients. We have put a great deal of thought into what we





want in our jumpbags and I think that you will find that many of these items simply will not be found as a standard option in any other brand.

Our philosophy is very simple. Whatever we put in must work well and must ultimately benefit the patient. Using our fully stocked Advanced Life Jumpbag as an option, let's take a look at some of the items included in our packing list. These items are in addition to a range of dressings, IV fluids, needles, dressings, diagnostic equipment etc...

So as you can see by the above, we have gone the extra mile when kitting out our jumpbags. Why? Because it makes a difference to the patient...

So before I say cheers until the next edition, I have included a few pictures below of our range of jumpbags and what application they are best suited for. Take care... but most importantly Be Safe!

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