



# COTSAFE

Ambulance Stretcher Safety

# What is COTSAFE?



a cooperative effort of several municipal and private ambulance services to improve patient safety and establish best practices for ambulance cot operation and transport.

# Why COTSAFE

- A significant number of patients and EMS providers have been injured during patient movement and transport while using an ambulance cot
- Improve awareness and training
- improve safety for all patients and providers.

# COTS SAFE

- Cot Hook
- Both providers must ensure the cot hook has engaged before removing the cot from the ambulance
- Also ensure the back of the cot is locked into place



# COTSAFE

- Over the shoulder straps
- Must be used on every patient in conjunction with the three cot straps



# COTSAFE

- Talk
- All providers must constantly communicate in a clear and concise manner to work together safely during ambulance cot operation.
- All movement of the stretcher both vertical and horizontal should be coordinated in order to protect patient and provider from injury.

# COTSAFE

- **Stripes**
- Match the stripes on the ambulance cot frame to set a lower and safer rolling height.
- NEVER move stretcher with patient in upper most position.
- Stripes ensure stretchers are at the recommended height for movement.

# COTSAFE

- Attention
- Ambulance cot operation requires the undivided attention of at least two providers.
- Ensures unsafe movement or hazards are immediately recognized.

# COTSAFE

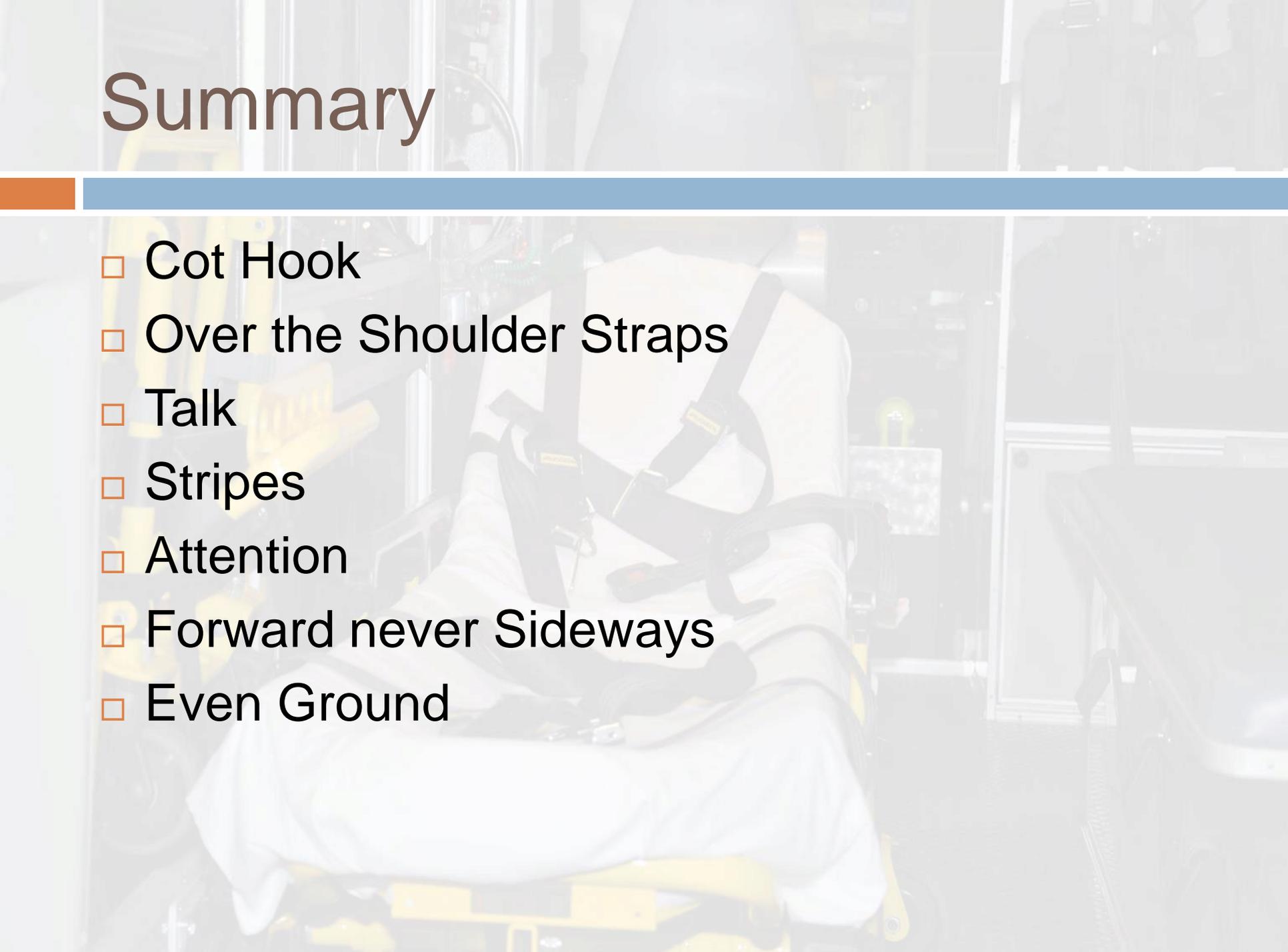
- Forward never sideways
- Ambulance cots should be moved foot or head first never sideways
- Sideways movement will increase the chance of a tip over.
- Provides a more natural method of movement for the providers, lessening the chance of injury

# COTSAFE

- Even ground
- Beware of rough surfaces and uneven terrain.
- It may be necessary to lower the stretcher or use additional support to move safely over rough terrain



# Summary



- ❑ Cot Hook
- ❑ Over the Shoulder Straps
- ❑ Talk
- ❑ Stripes
- ❑ Attention
- ❑ Forward never Sideways
- ❑ Even Ground