

The rescue hoist

The rescue hoist is used when the helicopter is not able to land near the patient. This is particularly the case in steep, impassable or wooded areas – and happens about 1,400 times a year. In order to ensure that every hand movement is just right, the Rega crews regularly practise the procedures for a mission with the rescue hoist, both during the day and at night.

Regular training is essential

The use of the individual pieces of recovery equipment is practised in various scenarios. The procedures are precisely defined, which also allows crew members from different Rega bases to fly missions together at any time. Regular training is essential. A crew member is required, for example, to complete a hoist training exercise at night at least every three months.

The hoist operator

The paramedic assumes the function of hoist operator. In the H145 helicopter, they stand on the landing skid and are secured by means of a special safety vest. With the control unit in their hand, they operate the rescue hoist and lower the emergency flight physician to the ground. They continually give the pilot directional instructions via the on-board intercom system, as the pilot's downward view is restricted.

The **steel cable of the rescue hoist** can carry up to 270 kilos.

The **hoist hook** is additionally marked so that it is clearly visible in all situations.

The **fixture** on the hoist of the H145 can be folded out to a maximum of 60 degrees. When not in use, the hoist is folded in.

The rescue hoist in detail


Regularly tested


The rescue hoist is used on approximately every seventh mission performed by a Rega helicopter. To ensure that it is ready for action day and night, it needs to be regularly checked and serviced.

Comprehensive maintenance

The hoist undergoes a daily functional check. Periodic checks are carried out by the helicopter mechanics after every three hours of use or after 100 retractions and extensions. The regular checks also include extending the entire steel cable and examining it for the slightest damage due to wear and tear, abrasion or twisting of the individual strands.

Performance features

 270 kg load capacity

 90-metre cable length

Experienced training instructor

During the training exercise, an experienced Rega instructor observes every movement from the ground and gives instructions. Depending on the type of training, the instructors are emergency flight physicians, paramedics or helicopter pilots. The team of instructors ensure that all occupational groups at Rega receive professional basic and further training.

The patient on the rescue hoist: three rescue aids



The rescue triangle

is used to evacuate people with minor injuries sitting in an upright position. It can be put on patients quickly and easily.



The rescue bag

is used to evacuate patients who need to be transported lying down. They are gently placed on a vacuum mattress.



The horizontal net

is mainly used in very inhospitable terrain, as it can easily be pulled under the patient's body.