



BELLINGHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

*Whatcom Medic One
1800 Broadway
P.O. Box 366
Bellingham, WA 98227-0366
Tel: (360) 647-6350 FAX: (360) 738-7312*

*Mayor Mark Asmundson
Fire Chief Jay Gunsauls
M.S.O. David Hammers*

March 5, 1998

Gary R. Williams
Hartwell Medical
6352 Corte del Abeto, Suite J
Carlsbad, California 92009-1408

Dear Gary,

As Marketing and Product Development Manager for Hartwell Medical, I thought you would be the best person to pass along some comments regarding your new CombiCarrier. We have eight of the units and have been using them for several months now. They are carried on all of our medic units and have been used on a variety of calls.

At a recent paramedic continuing education class, I asked for feedback on some of our most recent uses. Those uses were mostly similar to how we use our scoop stretcher. The medics reported that your unit was more comfortable and warmer than the metal stretcher. There were a few uses where the unit was used as a backboard. It was reported that the concave style gave added support to the patient being immobilized, and the many hand holes made maneuvering an immobilized patient easy.

We normally have room to carry two long spine boards and a scoop stretcher in an exterior compartment on our rigs. By switching to the CombiCarrier, we are able to have three spine boards when needed, without giving up the use of a clam type stretcher.

Judging by the many field comments we are receiving, our system made a smart move when we purchased your CombiCarriers. Keep up the good work and let us know when the next new product is ready for review!

Sincerely,

Ken Gustafson, Captain
Bellingham Fire Department

Marvin Wayne, M.D., Medical Director
Whatcom County Emergency Services

/llm