



## StatPacks

*By Greg Schaffer*

October 2004, MERGINET—While walking the exhibit hall of the 2004 EMS EXPO, I realized there was no shortage of new EMS equipment this year. But one booth stood out: StatPacks.

I have always been a fan of excellence or of having my expectations exceeded. Everything about StatPacks exudes excellence. I was greeted by a group of young, energetic gearheads, one of whom is a former EMT and the founder, who is responsive to hearing from customers directly. I was impressed with the company and the product line.

Just one year after first introducing its products at the 2003 EMS EXPO, StatPacks introduced several additions to its product line at this year's show in Atlanta, Georgia. The additions continue the company's tradition of originating new ideas in the field.

With the enormous Perfusion backpack, which we will take a close look at here, StatPacks brings its philosophy of high-efficiency backpacks to the carryall market. "There are clearly some applications for carry-all packs," says founder Scott Nelson.

Don't confuse this with a duffle bag. The Perfusion is highly organized and ergonomic. "It's the largest pack that we have, yet it's very organized," Nelson says. "It works like a base station. You lay that thing down flat and all the pockets flap out, and it's like a total base station."



The Perfusion rides very comfortably as a backpack, but old-school hand-carriers can remove the padded shoulder straps and waist belt, and use the fixed handle instead. "Backpacks are the most ergonomically correct way to carry your equipment, but there are still a lot of medics out there who like to carry stuff with their hands," Nelson says. "And maybe when they use the Perfusion they'll try out the shoulder strap and realize that really is a better way to carry your gear."

Another pack I took a look at was the Medslinger, designed in response to a very specific set of ergonomic specifications: the female body. "There were a lot of women

who told us that shoulder-straps tend to dig into their breasts, and that gets very uncomfortable," Nelson says. "The single-strap sling-bag format gets around that problem, with a touch of style."



Based on the original sling bags worn by bike couriers in San Francisco and New York, the Medslinger also offers users quick access to the contents of their pack without removing it. "With it slung over your shoulder you're still wearing it on your back, but when you need to access it you can just slide it around to the front," Nelson says.

"It's a great way to meet the challenge of trying to design equipment that can fit everybody."

In its second year of operations, StatPacks has expanded its product line in several areas, including multiple specialized transport solutions for EMS professionals. "A closer look at the innovations we've brought to this year's products should expand people's perceptions of what we do," Nelson says. "There's a lot more to StatPacks than just backpacks for paramedics."

Something I found very impressive about StatPacks is how responsive they are to their customers' needs. A prime example of this is when RJ, a firefighter based near the company's headquarters in southern Utah, approached StatPacks with his ideas for a pack for wildland firefighters. Nelson worked with RJ to turn his conceptions into a modern, fully engineered pack: the Spotfire.

The Spotfire's advanced harness system focuses weight on the wearer's waist, reducing back strain for people who spend much of the day bending over. On long, hot days, users will appreciate the bladder stash, which holds up to a 100 fluid ounce hydration bladder. When worse comes to worse, a one-handed stash bag offers instant access to both new-generation and old-style fire shelters; it's adjustable so wearers can skip the "pack rash."

"We're trying to mimic the original process," Nelson says. "I worked as a medic for 10 years, and that was long enough for me to know that we're not carrying our equipment right. And that's where I conceived the ideas for most of our basic packs. But the industry is changing. It's getting more demanding, and the jobs are getting more stressful. Medics are encountering different situations, and terror has changed EMS in a lot of ways. By listening to the medics in the field, and getting their feedback, we're able to incorporate our own changes so we can provide products that are exactly what they need."



In order to duplicate that process, StatPacks needs input from the field. And the staff is expert at turning those raw ideas into advanced, professional products. The Splash, for example, is a hybrid drybag-backpack that was created in response to a specific request. It's robust, watertight and ergonomic. Adjustable, padded shoulder straps keep users' hands free to perform first aid or drive the Jet Ski, as the situation requires.

"We got a call from Hawaii, from this medic who responds to emergency situations on a Jet Ski," says Nelson. "Most of our packs are water resistant, but they have

zippers so they can't be 100-percent waterproof. I wanted to bring out a drybag that is still comfortable. You can wear it, but you can also take it out on the lake."

Looking through the company's 2005 product line, you'll find a litany of products that respond to the specific needs of medics in the field. The Tidal Volume offers a safe, convenient way to transport oxygen tanks. The Whiner is a small waist-pack built for lifeguards and beach, special event and bike medics. The Quicklook is designed to carry an automated external defibrillator in a comprehensive first-aid kit perfect for airports, stadiums and other public venues. The company also incorporated detailed upgrades to its existing product line.

What all these innovations have in common is that they respond directly to the specific needs of people in the field. "We've received huge amounts of feedback from our users," says Nelson. "We're really listening to it. We've made upgrades to every product."

"We love getting feedback, both positive and negative," Nelson says. "It doesn't hurt our feelings one bit if somebody calls up and says 'Hey, you need to make a change on this.' It means they like the product enough that they'd like to see some improvements on it. We're a pretty flexible company, too. We can incorporate the changes quickly."

The Perfusion is great as a primary response bag for EMS. It features two main compartments and three external pockets that allow superior organization of large quantities of BLS and ALS equipment. The hybrid design can be worn as a backpack, a side sling or carried by hand. I found that it was very comfortable and ergonomic fitting even when full loaded. The great thing about this pack is that you can deploy all the necessary gear, while keeping your hands clear to work. The Perfusion features the following:

- Foam-lined construction maintains shape and protects contents
- Fully adjustable hook and loop shelving can be custom configured
- Stowaway padded shoulder straps and removable waist belt offer backpack and side-carry options
- Quick Zip access to main compartment
- Large side pockets allow quick access to main compartment
- Designed to carry StatPacks drug module, QuickRoll intubation kit, and IV module
- Whistle built into sternum strap buckle for safety
- Two load handles for quick and easy carry
- Reverse coil zippers open and close smoothly without catching, yet the zipper chain stays protected from dirt and wear
- Large zipper pulls allow easy and quick access while wearing gloves
- Reflective piping and tie-down loops for added nighttime safety

The Medslinger is comfortable enough for women, but men love it, too. Paramedic/Firefighter Bobby Ogletree found this to be a great pack. "A lot of people do not want to wear a two-strap pack, this still provides an ergonomic pack with one strap that slings quickly on and off," Ogletree said.

The Medslinger offers plenty of transparent and mesh pockets to keep you organized. Medslinger also offers:

- Single, ergonomic shoulder strap and breathable padded back make the pack comfortable to wear even when loaded
- Sling design allows wearer to swing the pack to the front for quick access to contents without removing the pack
- Quick-release adjustable buckle on the shoulder strap provides a custom fit and quick in and out

The Perfusion weighs 5.7 lbs. empty and lists for \$265. The Medslinger weighs 1.5 lbs. empty and lists for \$80.

So, what's the bottom line? These products are well designed, made of quality materials, functional, comfortable, ergonomic, and provide proper weight distribution, while at the same time being affordable. As for overall quality, StatPacks may just be the Nordstrom of EMS gear.

**To Purchase**

***Moore Medical Corporation***

*Moore Medical Corp*

*PO Box 1500*

*New Britain , CT 06050-1500*

*1-800-234-1464*

*www.mooremedical.com*

**For More Information**

***StatPacks***

*204 Playa Della Rosita, Suite #4*

*Washington, Utah 84780*

*435-627-2265*

*Fax: 435- 674-2398*

*www.statpacks.com*