

Restraint Removal Tools

Often the fastest and safest means to release a restraint is to untie, unlock, or otherwise undo it without destroying it. With that said, it is good practice to have a means to destroy the restraints you are using as a last resort. A traditional knife is not ideal for safely working close to the skin during an emergency. Common EMT shears may bind up on some materials especially if the shears are low quality and can be challenging to use if the restraints are very tight against the skin. Rescue Hooks have become a fixture in the military and public safety as a means to quickly and safely cut clothes and other materials in a crisis.

Compact

(1:1 Scale)



Ergonomic

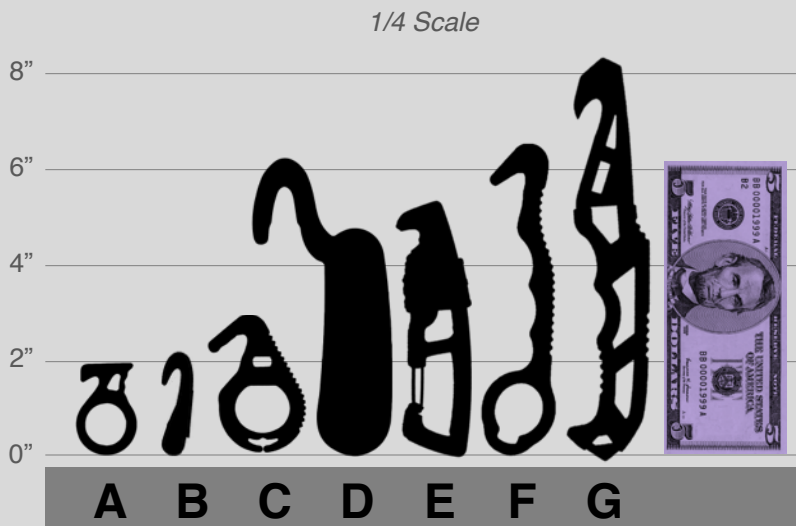
(Not to scale)



Size Matters

The best tool is the one you have with you when you need it. A tool that is too large may be left in a toy bag and one that is too small may be awkward to handle. Consider the size of your hands, the way the tool will be carried, the materials it may be cutting and how easy it will be to utilize in an emergency.

- A: [Gerber GDC Hook – 2"](#)
- B: [Colonial Knife Co. Tat Cutter – 2.25"](#)
- C: [Benchmade Model 5 – 2.9"](#)
- D: [Colonial Knife Co. Ameba – 4.8"](#)
- E: [Benchmade 9 CB – 5.19"](#)
- F: [Benchmade Model 8 – 6.5"](#)
- G: [Gerber Crisis Hook – 8.1"](#)



Alternative Formats



Rescue Knife

There are a number of folding knives on the market geared towards first responders. Some of these feature a blunted tip on the blade which provides little added safety benefit over a standard blade. Models which have a rescue hook separate from the blade provide a significant improvement enabling rapid destruction of restraints without the risk of an open blade.

Pictured: [StatGear T3 Tactical Auto Rescue Tool \(\\$40\)](#)

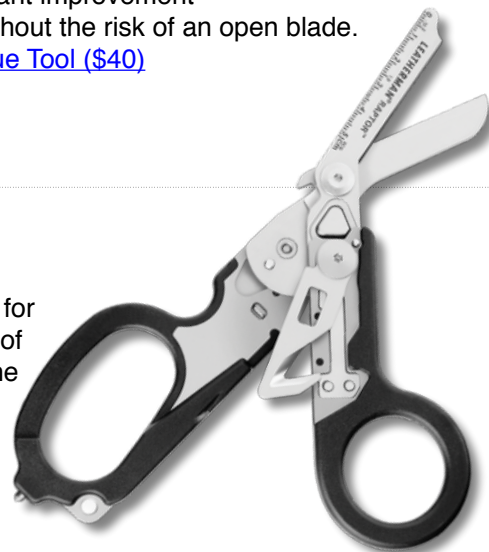
Similar: [Benchmade Triage \(\\$180\)](#)

Rescue Multitool

Several manufacturers have created multitools which are expressly designed for emergency use or have tools useful in an emergency. When considering one of these types of tools make sure the rescue hook is easily accessed and that the device is not bulky making it more likely to get left out of reach.

Pictured: [Leatherman Raptor Medical Shears Multitool \(\\$70\)](#)

Similar: [Gerber Crucial \(\\$40\)](#)



Repurposed Tools



Gut Hook

This tool, made by Gerber, was originally designed to help hunters dress an animal. The wide mouth and large exposed blade that is easily replaced by the user serves the hunter well. Some have begun carrying this device, or others of a similar design, for the purpose of emergency restraint removal. In the context of an emergency the wide mouth and large exposed blade are now a liability rather than a feature as it is easy for the users finger to slip in or just as easily some of the bottom's skin.

Seatbelt Cutter

Devices called "seatbelt cutters" or "strap cutters" were created to rapidly cut through a thin strap under tension. Although the mouth may be flexible it is challenging to cut thicker materials with this style device.



Other Considerations



[Flex Cuffs \(10 Pack, \\$8\)](#)

Zip Tie Style Restraints

These type of restraints almost always have to be destroyed to be removed. There are training versions of these restraints which can be reused but those are less common. Often used in kidnapping type scenes these restraints will generally be a bit uncomfortable and cannot be locked to stop them from tightening further. A rescue hook will cut through these but it can be challenging to do. Specialized cutters (pictured right) make short work of this style restraints. Small tin snips, available in most hardware stores, work great as well. EMT shears will cut them quickly, but can be uncomfortable when the restraints are tight against the skin.



[ASP Scarab Cutter \(\\$25\)](#)



[Smith and Wesson Hand Cuffs \(\\$30\)](#)



[How Cuff Keys Work \(or Don't\)](#)

Police Grade Hand Cuffs

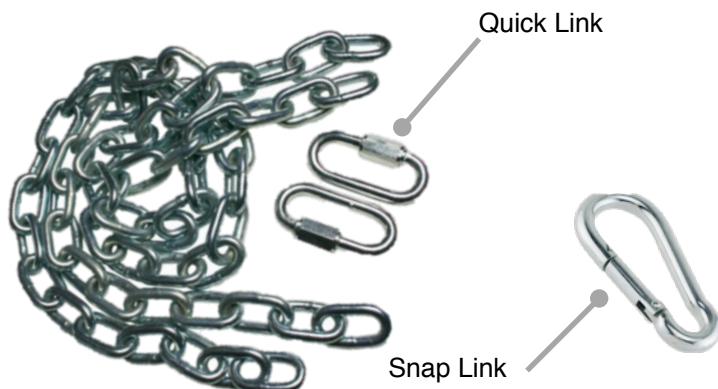
Hand cuffs designed for law enforcement are more durable and will perform more reliably than the average adult store cuffs. Cuffs for Law Enforcement can also be locked to prevent them from tightening, a safety feature not available in most novelty models. In theory, all hand cuffs in the United States can be opened with one type of key. Basic versions of these keys are cheap (under \$2) so buy a few extra. Double check that the keys you bought will work with your cuffs. Slight cuff differences and imperfections in the keys may cause a key not to work with your cuffs.



[Standard US Cuff Key \(\\$2\)](#)

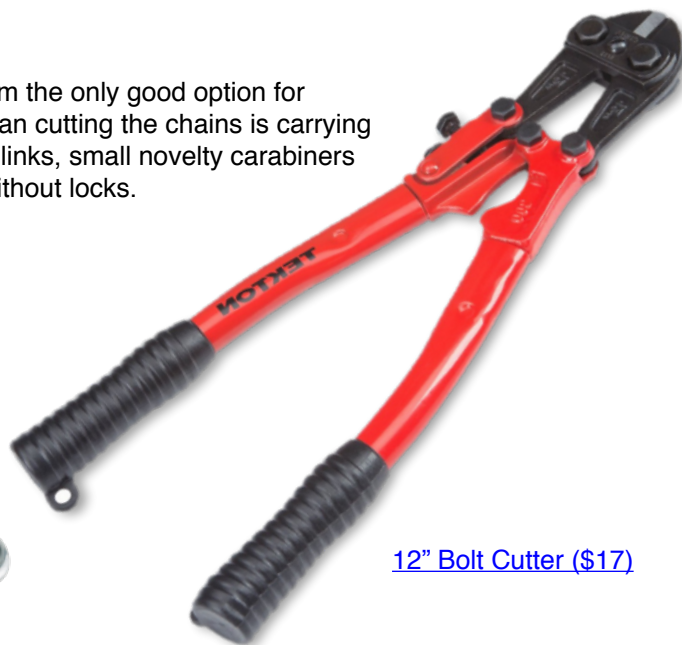
Chains

If you will be using chains for bondage and will be locking them the only good option for destroying the chains is a compact bolt cutter. Much easier than cutting the chains is carrying extra keys or using quick links which just screw closed. Snap links, small novelty carabiners and small zip ties can also be great options to close chains without locks.



Quick Link

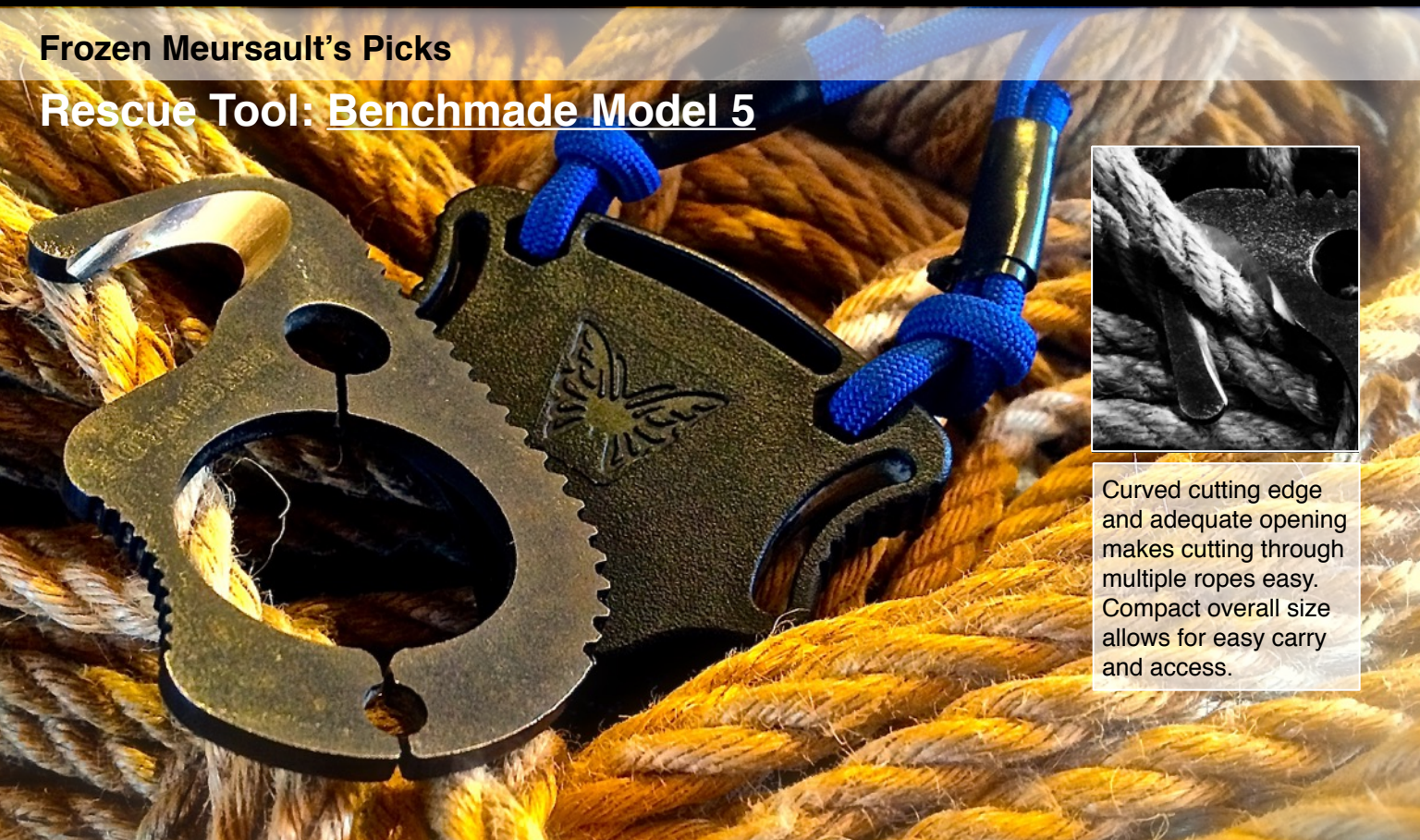
Snap Link



[12" Bolt Cutter \(\\$17\)](#)

Frozen Meursault's Picks

Rescue Tool: Benchmade Model 5



Curved cutting edge and adequate opening makes cutting through multiple ropes easy. Compact overall size allows for easy carry and access.

Other Things



[Leatherman Skeletool \(\\$50\)](#)

I find it handy to have a simple multitool available in general and this model allows easy access to the blade without unfolding the tool.

[ThruNite T10S \(\\$40\)](#)

Small and fairly bright AA flashlight with a simple on/off tail switch for quick access. This particular light has a high, medium, and low mode the latter of which is great for digging around in a toy bag without disturbing people near by.



Basic First Aid Kit

I made my own wallet sized kit. Contents include a few 1" x 3" adhesive bandages, a little bit of medical tape, and 5 or so 4" x 4" gauze pads.

[Pre-made Kit \(\\$8\)](#)