Both the NYSDOH Bureau of EMS and the US Fire Administration are distributing notifications regarding a warning message sent out from the Massachusetts Office of Emergency Medical Services about reported structural failures of Ferno PROFlexx Model 35-X Stretcher.

http://www.mass.gov/Eoehhs2/docs/dph/emergency_services/ambulance_stretcher_urgent_notice.pdf

According to the NYSDOH, there have been no reports of failures of this model of stretcher in New York State.

All EMS agencies are reminded that per 10 NYCRR part 800.21, equipment failures are to be reported to the NYSDOH BEMS if "patient care equipment fails while in use, causing patient harm..." Also EMS agencies are required to "maintain a record of all ... patient care equipment failures that could have resulted in harm to a patient and the corrective actions taken. A copy of this record shall be submitted to the Department with the EMS service's biennial recertification application."

All EMS agencies are encouraged to thoroughly and routinely inspect ALL stretchers for signs of metal fatigue (shavings, bent support arms, cracks, etc.). If such signs are discovered, remove the stretcher from service immediately and arrange for inspection and maintenance by a factory authorized representative. Additional NYSDOH policies related to equipment maintenance can be found in 02-11 Preventive Maintenance of EMS Vehicles and Equipment: http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/policy/02-11.htm

For any agency owning the, Ferno PROFlexx Model 35-X Stretcher, please contact Ferno-Washington, or the dealer who sold the stretcher to the agency, for immediate inspection and/or maintenance.