

PATIENT TRANSPORT TO AIR AMBULANCE FOLLOWING 2 CAR MVA

Saturday, 15 November 2003



Crash Rescue

On the 6th of October 2003, near Eltham in Victoria, Australia, two cars collided in a T-bone fashion. The two drivers of the cars were injured with the male driver of the green car air-lifted to the major trauma hospital in Melbourne.

Police, Ambulance Paramedics, CFA Fire and SES Rescue from Eltham responded to this call. The male patient in the green car had multiple fractures in both legs and serious head injuries. Ambulance Paramedics used a spine board to extricate the patient. No hydraulic rescue tools were used.

The Air Ambulance landed in a baseball oval nearby. Paramedics stabilized the patient in the Ambulance and then, with assistance from the SES and fire crews carried him to the waiting Air Ambulance some 100m away.

The other patient in the purple colored car was transported by road Ambulance to hospital. Police are investigating.





Lessons Learn't

Sometimes a simple crash can keep you busy. The male patient was in a serious condition and the Paramedics called the Air Ambulance in from Melbourne.

The Air Ambulance landed in a baseball oval right next to the crash. Pretty cool and safe for them. The only problem is that between the oval and the crash, there were high cyclone wire fences, a short slippery grassed bank, and busy road.

Myself and a CFA fireman went looking for the best way over and found a gate about 70m up the road from the crash that would allow us to access the oval.

The other alternative was to put the patient in the Ambulance and drive him around to the other side of the oval and roll him across on the trolley. Not the best as it still would be a significant distance on the trolley.

In the end, the Paramedics and Air Ambulance guys were happy to roll him up the road for 60m on the trolley, then carry him down a gentle slope (six people holding stretcher), and then roll him slowly over the hard grass to the chopper. Maybe a few bumps, but it worked.

Be prepared for changes in the rescue like this. Initially when we arrived we thought we would be cutting the car open. Then we thought, maybe some patient handling, then helping with traffic for a bit, then it turned out, we need to assist with patient transport to the chopper some 70-100m away. Now if the chopper had to land in a back garden on a hilly property in bushland, then the carry out might be a harder and different story.