

Under Pressure: Crush Injuries in Technical Rescue

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Doug Hexel has worked in EMS from the South Bronx to Saratoga and everywhere in between. He is a Firefighter for the City of Schenectady, Rescue Specialist for NY-TF2 USAR, Paramedic for Albany County Sheriff's Office, and Paramedic Instructor at SUNY Cobleskill. He is a New York State CIC and holds numerous Technician level rescue certifications. His professional passion is educating Paramedics and Paramedic students on all aspects of EMS, particularly with his expertise in technical rescue.

Whether a vehicle, piece of equipment, building material, or dirt; crush injuries are common in all disciplines of technical rescue. This course focuses on techniques and strategies for methodical treatment and patient removal following crush injuries.

Presentation Outline:

- Crush injury causes: vehicle/machinery, collapse, trench
- Safety: PPE, limitations, skilled rescuers, shoring
- Kinematics of trauma: physics basics, crushing impact (high speed vs low speed), weight, body parts involved
- Assessment: access, initial concerns, extended concerns
- Management: crush injury treatment, field physician response, field amputation

Objective 1: Assess crush injuries based on mass and energy of trauma.

Objective 2: Synthesize a treatment and extrication plan based on all factors involved.

Objective 3: Justify the use of additional resources for extended rescue/medical operations.