



Remedy for Extremity Disamenity:

*Re-Visiting Field Amputations &
Response Paradigms*

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- 0245, man hit by freight train in Philadelphia
- Left leg below knee caught between wheels
- Amputation necessary for extrication



Physician Response Team

- PFD has procedure for requesting MD to assist with surgical extrications, MCIs
- Medical command hospital-based
 - 5 contracted hospitals
- Very rarely requested
 - Last time years ago
 - Last time MD intervened March 7, 1990, when subway derailed in tunnel, killing 4, injuring 158

Physician Response Team

- Hospital provides medical supplies, meds
 - PFD provides PPE, keeps providers safe
- Unfunded
- No ongoing training
- Liability
- Because rarely needed, hard to sustain
- Is there a better way?

Considered as last resort?

- Surgical airway
- Perimortem C-Section
- Pericardiocentesis



Scope of the Problem

- Ultra low frequency
- Ultra high risk

13% of of surveyed with field amputation in the preceding 5 years.

96% had no training in the procedure

1% with a protocol

Prehosp Disaster Med 1996



Goals

- Collate recent cases around the country
- Publish case series
- Identify/share best practices





Indications

- Immediate life threat
- Hazard presents a threat to life of the victim or rescuer
- Only viable means to extricate the victim
- Consideration in order to access other living victims

Procedures

- Amputation
- Disarticulation
- Dismemberment

Proximal hemorrhage control

Degree of urgency

Medications

- Ketamine
- Etomidate
- Antibiotic
- Analgesic
- Tetanus immunization



Resiliency

- Unusual event
 - Patient
 - Bystander/co workers
 - Rescuers
- Initiate your stress debrief process

Training

- Trauma/ortho surgeon
- EMS physician
- Prehospital provider

USAR and military exposure

Sustainment of skills

Model

- Trauma surgeon/Trauma center
- EMS physician
- ED physician
- Prehospital provider

Environment

- Confined space
- Explosive hazard
- Heat/Cold
- Disaster response

Logistics

- Notification
- Scene transport

- Decision making?
 - Physician
 - Medic
 - Patient
 - Incident Commander
- Mode of transport
- Destination decision
- Media

- What is your process
- How do you exercise/ function check your process
- Personnel changes
- Costs



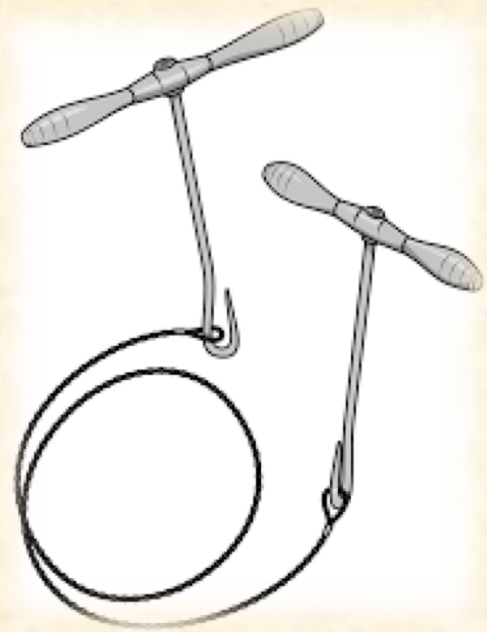
Equipment List

- Hemorrhage control
 - Tourniquets (multiple), hemostatic dressing
- Gigli saw— handles and multiple blades
- Power saw
- Field expedient saw
- Scalpel
- Surgical scissors/ clamps
- Wound care items



Cutting

- Gigli saw
- Ortho saw
- Reciprocating saw (sawz all)
- Hurst tool
- Field expedient







Frank Weolowski 2000



Texas Man Loses Leg after Industrial Accident

0 Shares



San Antonio, TX- A man working at a San Antonio cardboard plant had to one of his legs amputated following an industrial accident on Monday night, according to local TV station KHOU.

The worker, whose identity has not been released, was working at Bates Container, manufacturer of cardboard boxes, while he was operating a pulley system. The worker stepped into a dangerous area and his leg became trapped between two rollers that are 3 feet in diameter and 16,000 lbs. each.

"Basically he was entrapped between two large rollers, and we had to get him out of the two rollers," said San Antonio Fire Department Battalion Chief of Special Operations Walter Yeats.

However, the emergency crew from Bexar County was unable to free the man's leg from the equipment and called a trauma surgical team. The man's leg had to be amputated on the scene, which took the surgeon roughly 20 minutes.

The injured man was stabilized and flown to a nearby hospital.

The Bates plant assured that they had proper safety procedures in place and employees confirmed that they receive on-site safety training.

Since he was injured on the job, the man is eligible for **worker's compensation**, but that often isn't enough for the person to survive on, especially if they become permanently disabled.

Accidents in the workplace can often be caused by the **carelessness of the employer**, though that may not be so in this case. Should there be suspicion that an employer is liable for injuries caused to a worker, an **accident attorney** can be invaluable in obtaining a financial settlement that will cover

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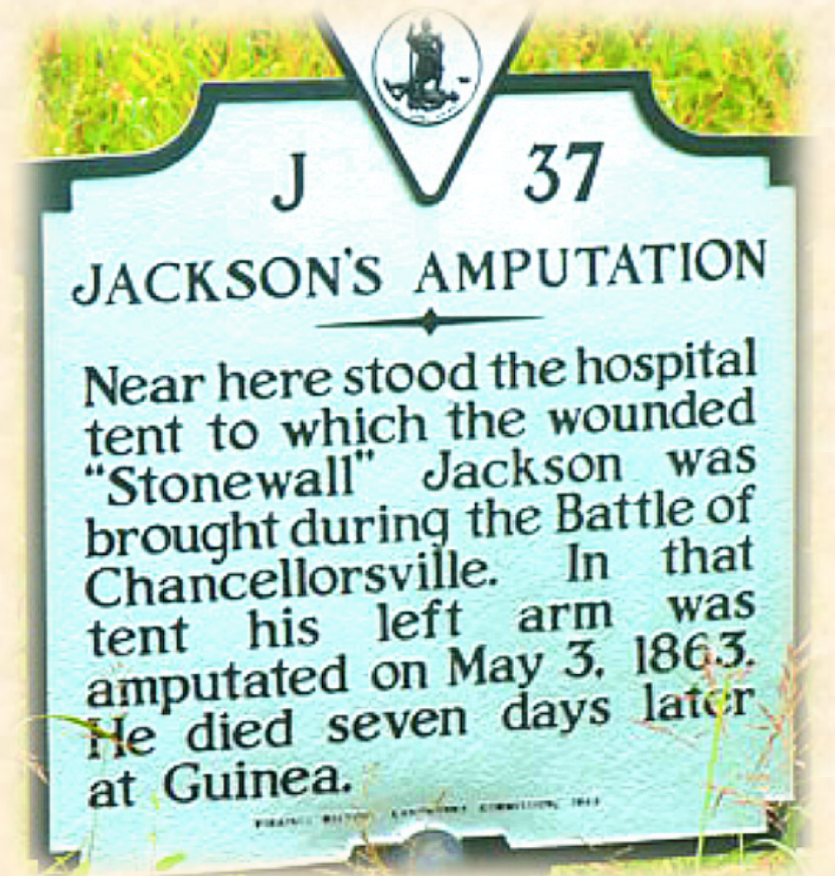
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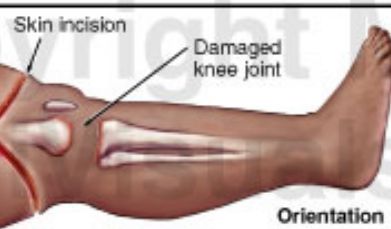
Above Knee Amputation

Intraoperative

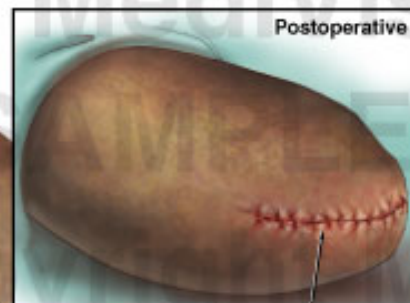
Cut muscles

Gigli saw

Distal end of femur



Postoperative



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