



Crush Injury Management

In the Underground Environment

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Mines Rescue

Background

- 1910 - Messina Earthquake.
- WW2 - Air Raid Shelters fell on people crushing limbs - First time called Crush Syndrome.
- 1977 - Granville Rail Disaster, Sydney, Australia.
- 2011 - Fatality Chain Valley Bay Colliery.



What is it?

Definition: Crush Injury

An injury that occurs because of pressure from a heavy object onto a body part.

A crush injury may also arise from squeezing of a body part between two objects.



What is it?

Definition: Crush Syndrome

The shock-like state following release of a limb/s, trunk and pelvis after a prolonged period of compression.



Issue for Mines Rescue

- Different training recommending many different treatment regimes causing confusion.
- What is the difference between crush injury and crush syndrome?
- Differences in underground medical support and surface operations.



Solutions

- Mines Rescue approached the Australian Resuscitation Council NSW Branch to brainstorm appropriate recognition and treatment for crush injury/ syndrome.
- First meeting occurred and training package under development.
- Interim guideline produced as per the general Australian Resuscitation Guidelines.
- New protocols and training package due for release December 2013.



Current Australian Resuscitation Guidelines

- Based on consensus of opinion from medical authorities.
- Recognises the issue of blood loss as a major mortality rate outside of hospital

