FILM REVIEW

Vehicle Crash Rescue*

This 16-mm colour, optical sound cinefilm was made with an American rescue squad under the direction of Dr K. I. Maull who is Professor of Surgery and Director of Emergency Services at the University of Tennessee. From the outset it should be stated that its overseas origin should not detract from its usefulness—there is nothing in the film that does not equally apply in this country. Only driving on the right and red flashing lights need be ignored.

The film lasts for approximately 15 minutes and is one of the best that I have seen for keeping to the optimal teaching pattern of being clear, concise and logical. The film starts by stating its objectives—it is for physicians and others who are going to work in some way with the rescue team where people are badly injured or trapped.

The film then lists ten points which are to be covered in illustrated captions, elaborating briefly on each and then showing a rescue from start to finish, illustrating the various stages, such as the response, approach, method of gaining access, technique for release and removal.

The rescue equipment shown is the well-known Hurst rescue tool and it illustrates the versatility of that piece of equipment very well indeed. The basic casualty handling techniques of fitting a neck collar and use of the short and long spinal boards are also shown.

The film does not cover the ambulance or medical techniques involved at the scene as it is largely a film made to see how the other discipline works, not one's own. So who should see it? Certainly all medical and nursing staff who are involved in accident flying squads or major accident teams as well as new recruits to the ambulance and police services.

Is there anything missing? Entonox for pain relief is the obvious US/UK difference. I can't think why the Americans don't use it. Other than that, the only criticism I can make is that Professor Maull should make an accompanying film on the medical techniques involved or a combined and expanded version of rescue and resuscitation. He certainly has provided a film that is memorable for getting straight to the point and sticking to basic concepts. Nowhere is the film cluttered with all the fuss and fluster of over-dramatization so beloved of many film-makers.

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*Copies of this film (Price \$200.00) are available from Dr K. I. Maull, Department of Surgery, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37920, USA.