

BOOK REVIEW

TOP FIREFIGHTING BLOGGERS FROM TWO DIFFERENT CONTINENTS REVIEW IAN DUNBAR'S (RESCUE CONSULTANT FOR HOLMATRO) LATEST BOOK – *VEHICLE EXTRICATION TECHNIQUES*. WILL THIS BOOK FIT THE BILL FOR RESCUE OPERATIONS ON DIFFERENT CONTINENTS?

I am **Kris J Parker**, currently employed with the Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES), in Australia, where I work as a Regional Trainer. VICSES is the single largest provider of road crash rescue volunteers in the world. I am a road crash rescue instructor and have been delivering training since 2009. Prior to my position within VICSES I served for just under 13 years with the Australian Defence Force, where I was employed as a Special Investigator with the Military Police – Special Investigation Branch. I am a now a full-time staff member with the VICSES as well as a volunteer with both VICSES and the local Country Fire Authority. I am also the owner of the motor vehicle collision extrication website: www.extricationmatters.com.



Ever wanted to know just that little bit more about extrication procedures? Wanted to refine that particular technique, use a different technique or simply practice an old technique that you haven't used for a while? Look no further, Ian Dunbar from Holmatro Rescue Tools has answered those questions and more with his new book: 'Vehicle Extrication Techniques'.

Ian has captured a lot of the information that a road rescue extrication operator requires, not only for the Holmatro tool range, but any tool. With easy to follow diagrams, hundreds of photographs, easy-to-understand page layouts and interactive QR codes, Ian has ensured extrication operators across the world are going to be performing at the top of their game. Ian's book will undoubtedly be used as the industry standard by first responders and firefighters alike.

As we all know, the only way we can truly become an expert in extrication techniques is to train properly with the proper tools and have scenarios that match what we are trying to achieve. If we don't have the correct training, we perform poorly – exactly the same if we have the incorrect tool.

Ian's experience in the fire service and thirst for accurate, effective and efficient conveyance of the correct techniques and information is very apparent in the book. Written in a way that appeals to new users of hydraulic tools all the way to those who have many years of training, his new book highlights some newer techniques and also provides a brush up on already known techniques. The book is certainly useful for all levels of experience.

At the front of the book (pages 12 and 13) is a 'how to use

this book' section. This introduces the reader to the various techniques Ian has used to convey his information – from a 'difficulty scale' for the different techniques he discusses, to the introduction of 'ACE' boxes (Actions, Considerations and Equipment). On these pages, QR codes are also explained. This enables the reader to not only use the photographs that appear in the book, but also to see the different techniques in a video on any smart phone or tablet.

When we delve into the book further, we are presented with instructional pages (such as pages 130 and 131) where glass management is discussed. Here there is a short and easy-to-understand blurb about the overall procedure followed by the ACE boxes complete with photographs. At the top of the ACE box page we see QR codes again, and by scanning this with a smart phone or tablet it takes us to a comprehensive video of the techniques discussed.

A great referencing system has also been throughout the book. If you take a look at page 229 for example, there are page numbers in the border of the text that directly relate to techniques already discussed. This provides easy reference if the reader wants to revisit that information.

Throughout my career I have read a number of books relating to road rescue extrication techniques. This guide captures a large amount of information in a very precise and accurate manner. A 'must-have book' for new members through to more experienced members of the fire service.

Do yourself a favour and get a copy as soon as they are available.

My name is **Michael Smith**, most people in the fire industry know me by my station nickname Smitty. I am a paid firefighter/EMT for Wixom Fire just outside the Detroit area. The job that pays the bills is in the automotive industry. I design seat structures, adjusters, and plastic trims (an adjuster is the part of a car seat that makes it move up and down). However, I have worked on almost every part of a vehicle during my 17-year career and get to see the body structures on CAD. My extrication blog can be read at: www.boronextrication.com.



Regardless of what hydraulic extrication tools you prefer or what brand your truck is, training resources are provided by many of the manufacturers. My first thought of Ian Dunbar's new book is the size and hard cover. The book is smaller than other 'training' books and perfectly-sized for operation in the field. It covers safety and patient based extrication of persons following road traffic accidents.

The only word of caution I would issue to North American readers is that some of the terminology may seem a little strange at first. For instance, in the United States the 'patient' is the person, which is removed from the vehicle. In the book, Ian refers to the patient as the 'casualty'.

The book is broken up into five sections:

- Safety,
- The vehicle,
- Tools and equipment,
- The TEAM approach to road traffic collisions,
- At the scene.

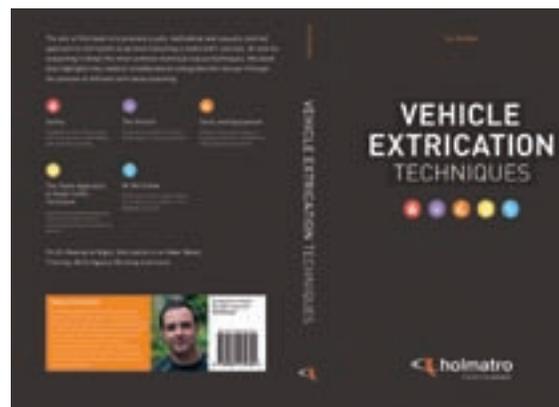
One section of the book that I really liked was the introduction and the seven phases of the TEAM approach. Ian wrote these down in order but added a very important statement: 'Due to the casualty's condition, other phases may have to be performed out of sequence.' Basically urging the reader to remain dynamic and with the ability to adapt and overcome, as one would at the scene of a structural fire.

When it comes to vehicle technology the book is truly a quick reference guide. Now I would always prefer to have a Crash Recovery System by Moditech (a system that provides information on new car construction) loaded on a laptop or tablet on the rescue and it is my primary 'go to' program, but I have found myself looking into the book during the job for the latest information on vehicle technology, new materials, and a snapshot of where the automotive industry is. Ian used input from some of the largest automotive companies in the world in

his book so it can be used a reference guide really well.

Perhaps my favorite feature in the book is the use of QR codes throughout. In addition to illustrations of extrication techniques by pictures, QR codes which can be scanned on your smartphone or tablet, directly take the reader to videos on YouTube, showing how to perform these techniques and methods covered in that section of the book.

Just like any training tool in the fire service this book doesn't pretend to be the be-all and end-all. However, it is pretty close! Pick up a copy of the book, read once, read it again, share it, and come back after an extrication incident and compare what was carried out on scene to what is written in the book. A copy of 'Vehicle Extrication Techniques' should be found in every firehouse and EMS quarters around the world. I keep my copy with me in my station backpack and have found myself flipping through it to compare techniques and to cross reference information. As my bottom line, for this price it is a must-have book.



Vehicle Extrication Techniques is now also available as an application for download on tablets and smartphones, and costs €14,99/\$16,99. The hardcopy is available from Holmatro dealers worldwide, and has a recommended retail price of €14.95/\$19.95.



FLOOD FIGHTERS

SAR (Search And Rescue) Critical Survival Decisions



**USA
FALL 2014**

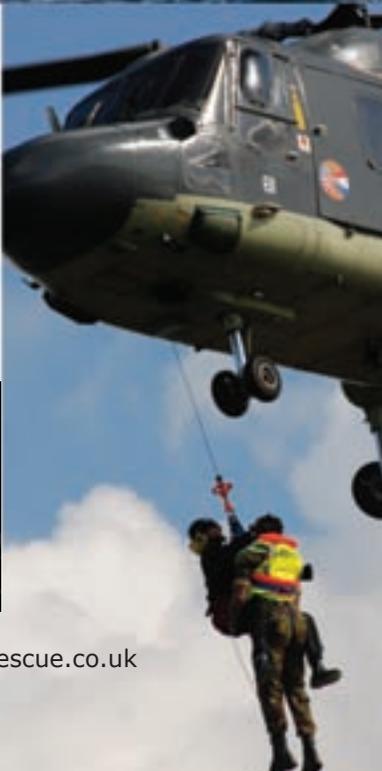
Floodfighters Lifesaving International Conference

Charlotte - North Carolina - USA

International pre-eminent US, UK and EU experts from the worlds of fire and rescue, EMS, SAR, academia, and Lifesaving medical will share the latest vital safety critical information to stakeholder target audiences involved with water and flood rescue.

Focus on: water rescue strategies involve complex risks and the consequences of decision making to all those involved. Much has been achieved, however threats to the lives of our citizens from drowning continue and that from flooding is arguably growing, due to climatic change, together with the threats to those who respond to resolve events. We clearly need to continue to share understanding, information and learning, to identify best practice and strategies.





Exhibition to support & delegate information details: enquiries@professional-rescue.co.uk

Delegate information: www.flood-fighters.com

Or Phone UK **+44 (0) 1202 731566**