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of the 42 are in some sort of counseling," following their duty at the crash scene, Duffy said. He said only about 5 percent of the 42 workers had any previous history of psychological problems.

One fire official, the psychiatrist said, "can no longer bring himself to go to the supermarket with his wife, because he can't stand passing the meat counter."

Rescue workers involved in the California disaster "typically had nightmares for some weeks afterwards and (other) sleep disturbances."

The horror of a major airline accident is virtually impossible for the outsider to comprehend, said the psychiatrist, who said the remains of the 273 victims of the Chicago crash were stacked in the makeshift morgue at O'Hare in 438 body bags.

What is often forgotten, he said, is that the crash survivor's memories are often limited to his own horrible experiences, while rescue personnel share in the horror of all the deaths and injuries caused by a crash.

B.D. Colen
Washington Post

"What Is An EMT?"

Here's Meriwether County (Georgia) EMT Danny Wright's answer. It's at one and the same time a tribute to those of you who wear "the patch" and a challenge to any among you who may have become jaded, bored, or somewhat indifferent to the service role you've chosen to play in your community. It would make a good civic club speech.

The letters "EMT" stand for emergency medical technician. An EMT is a professional who has been extensively trained, certified and registered by the state to administer expert emergency medical care in the field regardless of the circumstances of the accident or sudden illness. More directly, the EMT is the individual you observe entering the remains of the twisted and tangled parts of what once was an automobile on a rain-swept highway at two o'clock in the morning in an effort to save the lives and reduce the injuries of the victims involved until they can be turned over to the nearest hospital emergency room. The EMT is the same professional you see bent over the stricken victim of a heart attack, administering mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and closed heart compression in a dedicated effort to save a life.

You rarely meet the EMT. Under normal circumstances you only see him in action in situations you wish had never happened. He is summoned to perform his job in all kinds of weather, at any time of the day or night, for human beings of any sex or race. Conditions may vary from temperatures as low as 20 degrees below zero to 110 degrees or above. It can be wet, dry, muddy or icy — it doesn't matter. The site may be a paved highway or a quarry pit filled with water, the beach, a river bank, a canal, a crushed automobile or truck, a crashed aircraft, a wrecked passenger train, a tornado or hurricane-torn area, a collapsed building, a flooded area, the scene of a large fire, or even a bedroom or a bathroom in a beautiful modern home. Makes no difference — the EMT will be there when people need emergency care.

The EMT is trained to be calm even under the most trying circumstances. He is taught to provide expert emergency medical care without the benefit of a well-equipped emergen-

cy room or a battery of nurses and support personnel to give assistance as he administers life saving care.

The EMT may be a fireman, a nurse, an ambulance crewman or even a police officer. He is a professional dedicated to helping his fellow man in time of need. He has a strong sense of compassion and a desire to give his best in helping others, who, through misfortune or misadventure, can't help themselves. He is a man or woman who has chosen to leave behind the apathy and lack of concern for others that seems to be so prevalent in our society today. He has chosen to do a job that somebody has to do, but few want.

When the question is asked, "What is an EMT?", remember the letters stand for emergency medical technician, AND A FRIEND.

Georgia EMS News

Laerdal Issues Product Alert For Resusci Bag, Suction Unit

The Laerdal Medical Corporation has issued a "potential hazard warning" for the Resusci Folding Bag (RFB-I). The RFB-I model was introduced in the United States in 1967, and in 1969 the RFB-II was introduced. Production and sales of the RFB-I have been nonexistent since the RFB-II was introduced in 1969.

According to Laerdal, the potential hazard exists if the "non-breathing valve" of the RFB-I is mounted in the RFB-II (see diagram). Under certain circumstances, expiration may be partially blocked, thus compromising ventilatory efforts.

Although it is unlikely that the older RFB-I's are still in use, Laerdal recommends that anyone still using this model (RFB-I) discard the "Folding Bag" and "Lip Units."

Since November 30, 1978, Laerdal has stopped making parts for the old "60" series Portable Suction Units. If you own a "60" series unit and need parts, you must send the unit to any local Laerdal dealer, who will upgrade the suction unit to meet the current specifications of the 79-00-00 model. The approximate cost for this conversion service is \$100 plus shipping.

You can identify the "60" series suction unit by the "white caps" found on the rechargeable batteries.

"Red caps" on the batteries would indicate a 79-00-00 model, or a "60" series that has been previously converted.

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