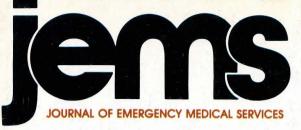
NOVEMBER 1987 VOL. 12 NO. 11 \$2.50



EMT-D Spreads to Europe Living Wills and DNR Orders Evaluating EMS Efficiency

pecialized Rescue

• Electrical Injuries

- Trench Rescue
- Using Ropes in EMS







About the Cover: This hang glider pilot was electrocuted when sea breezes sent him into high voltage power lines. Power had to be cut prior to bringing him down. Photo courtesy Ken Garber, Ventura, Calif.

NOVEMBER 1987, VOL. 12, NO. 11

CONTENTS

FEATURES

- **29 Trench Rescue** BY JIM GARGAN. Compassion and lack of knowledge rank among the top reasons why would-be rescuers become victims in trench rescue operations.
- **34 Rope Rescue in EMS** BY TOM VINES. An understanding of tools and techniques is necessary to perform rescue operations in the steep slope environment.
- 40 The Deadly Current by DAN MIDDLETON, MD. The effects of electrical current on the human body dictate specific treatment of victims in the field.
- 44 **Protect While You Provide** by CAROL J. THOMPSON, RN AND ALFRED S. GERVIN, MD. These infection control guidelines will provide answers to some common questions asked by prehospital care providers at risk.
- **48 Measuring EMS Effectiveness** by STEVEN M. ASHBROCK AND ROBERT H. MCMASTER, MD. By keeping track of some very basic statistics, you can determine whether or not prehospital care is having a positive effect in your system.
- **54 The Right to Die** by PETER B. KING. Understanding living wills can help rescuers choose the right course of actions when faced with DNR orders.

79

84

87

89

DEPARTMENTS

6 Letters

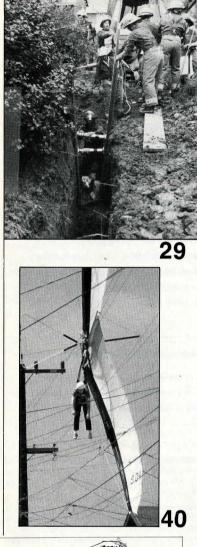
- 11 Inside EMS 6.1 Quake Hits Southern California; Ohio Hope II Resuscitator May Malfunction; Leaving Your Job May Mean Paying For Training; AIDS Awareness Workshops a Hit; EMS Providers List Available; JEMS Interviews AMD President Mark Van Arnam.
- 22 Special Report Advancing Resuscitation Abroad by Mary Newman

- 58 Calendar
- 77 Classifieds
 - **Review** Simplified Spanish for Paramedics by Steve Islava. Reviewed by Mike Baxter and Marco Gonzales.
 - Inroads
 - In the Industry
 - Advertiser Directory
- 90 The Last Word

COLUMNS

- 5 The Publisher's Page by Jim Page – Shaky Legal Ground
- 20 Current Research by Bruce Goldfarb – It's About Time; Heads Down; A Matter of Technique; Demolition Derby.
- 27 Tricks of the Trade by Thom Dick – Rodrolls, Michigan Medic has the Answer to Sandbags
- 56 Innovations by Thom Dick Finally – A REAL Airway For EMTs, Respironics' Revive Easy PTL

- 62 Clinical Q&A by Scott Bourn Pneumos, You Know...
- 65 Legal File by Carol J. Shanaberger – Legal Chess
- 69 Teacher Talk by Mick J. Sanders – Revising Practical Skill Evaluation In Missouri
- 80 Interface by Jack Stout Emergency Vehicle Driver Training, Two Schools of Thought





About the Cover: This hang glider pilot was electrocuted when sea breezes sent him into high voltage power lines. Power had to be cut prior to bringing him down. Photo courtesy Ken Garber, Ventura, Calif.

NOVEMBER 1987, VOL. 12, NO. 11

CONTENTS

FEATURES

- **29 Trench Rescue** BY JIM GARGAN. Compassion and lack of knowledge rank among the top reasons why would-be rescuers become victims in trench rescue operations.
- **34 Rope Rescue in EMS** BY TOM VINES. An understanding of tools and techniques is necessary to perform rescue operations in the steep slope environment.
- 40 The Deadly Current by DAN MIDDLETON, MD. The effects of electrical current on the human body dictate specific treatment of victims in the field.
- 44 Protect While You Provide by CAROL J. THOMPSON, RN AND ALFRED S. GERVIN, MD. These infection control guidelines will provide answers to some common questions asked by prehospital care providers at risk.
- **48 Measuring EMS Effectiveness** by STEVEN M. ASHBROCK AND ROBERT H. MCMASTER, MD. By keeping track of some very basic statistics, you can determine whether or not prehospital care is having a positive effect in your system.
- **54** The Right to Die by PETER B. KING. Understanding living wills can help rescuers choose the right course of actions when faced with DNR orders.

79

84

87

DEPARTMENTS

6 Letters

- 11 Inside EMS 6.1 Quake Hits Southern California; Ohio Hope II Resuscitator May Malfunction; Leaving Your Job May Mean Paying For Training; AIDS Awareness Workshops a Hit; EMS Providers List Available; JEMS Interviews AMD President Mark Van Arnam.
- 22 Special Report Advancing Resuscitation Abroad by Mary Newman

58 Calendar

77 Classifieds

Review – Simplified Spanish for Paramedics by Steve Islava. *Reviewed by Mike Baxter and Marco Gonzales.*

- Inroads
- In the Industry
- 89 Advertiser Directory
- 90 The Last Word

COLUMNS

- 5 The Publisher's Page by Jim Page – Shaky Legal Ground
- 20 Current Research by Bruce Goldfarb – It's About Time; Heads Down; A Matter of Technique; Demolition Derby.
- 27 Tricks of the Trade by Thom Dick – Rodrolls, Michigan Medic has the Answer to Sandbags
- 56 Innovations by Thom Dick Finally – A REAL Airway For EMTs, Respironics' Revive Easy PTL

- 62 Clinical Q&A by Scott Bourn Pneumos, You Know...
- 65 Legal File by Carol J. Shanaberger – Legal Chess
- 69 Teacher Talk by Mick J. Sanders – Revising Practical Skill Evaluation In Missouri
- 80 Interface by Jack Stout Emergency Vehicle Driver Training, Two Schools of Thought