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For any further questions or comments regarding this newsletter, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at [rescue@holmatro.com](mailto:rescue@holmatro.com).

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## Noise on the rescue scene

*By Ian Dunbar*

The concept of extrication being casualty centred is well established and as technical rescuers we are now more considerate than ever towards the needs of the victim and the medical interventions they require. A rapid and reliable assessment of a critically ill casualty will provide the information upon which an extrication plan can be formulated. Without knowing the degree of entrapment and the nature and extent of their injuries, a casualty centred rescue cannot be planned or performed effectively. The casualty's condition *is* the fundamental basis of your extrication plan. **But can we further improve our casualty centred approach by taking care of a more basic issue which affects every rescue scene?**



### Communication is vital

A look at any reference to pre-hospital primary and secondary surveys will place great emphasis on **looking, listening and feeling** to identify time critical injuries. The role of the medic is to perform these surveys to establish the casualty's condition and provide a base line by which subsequent reassessments can be measured. If there are high levels of noise on the scene, it is more difficult to assess the casualty's vital signs and simple communication between the medic and victim (which is also important to establish and monitor conscious level) is also compromised.

Every rescue scene *will* produce noise. But like any other variable, this *must* be controlled. For safety and to ensure effective working, on scene communication amongst crews is vital. However, this must be considerate to the role of the medic. A clear briefing performed at an appropriate distance from the vehicle coupled with understanding of tactics and tools that are required, will reduce the need for unnecessary communication and noise on the scene.



### Intelligent use of tools

Your equipment, by its very nature will produce noise. However, intelligent use will reduce the noise emissions that directly affect

casualty care. Ideally your hydraulic pump should produce the minimum noise levels, even during tool operation. It should be positioned at an appropriate distance so as to allow effective working but not affect communication, and because of this it should be compact, light and easy to carry. When hydraulic tools are no longer required, your pumps must be turned off. This will ensure that during the critical extrication phase, the physical removal of the casualty is well controlled and not compromised in any way.

Of course it is not possible to work in silence, but the medic's role requires noise levels to be kept to a minimum. Choosing the right equipment and adopting the right tactics to reduce noise, will assist this vital communication and promote a more casualty centred rescue and also maintain the safety of crews on scene.

If you have any further questions, please contact Ian Dunbar at [i.dunbar@holmatro.com](mailto:i.dunbar@holmatro.com)

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### In the picture: New lightweight pump for faster and quieter tool operation

The SPU 16 PC from Holmatro is a new lightweight petrol pump incorporating **3-stage pump technology**. This technology enables faster tool operation when possible and more control when you need it. Compared to traditional 2-stage pumps the SPU 16 PC has a **much higher flow in its second stage**. This allows for quicker cutting or spreading actions at pressures up to 500 bar. At higher pressures the pump switches to a **lower flow in its third stage, for a more controlled cutting or spreading action**.



Holmatro lightweight, 3-stage petrol pump SPU 16 PC. Equipped with single hose CORE™ Technology.

#### Other special features

With a **low noise level** according to EN 13204 the SPU 16 PC is a very silent pump, **enabling easy communication** with the victim(s) and between rescuers. Its **standard ECO function** has the engine revert to idle speed when the equipment is not used, which minimizes fuel consumption and sound. Thanks to its low weight (<17 kg) and ergonomic design it is easy to carry by one person to the accident location. LED lighting above the valve block facilitates identification of the pump's location and (un)

coupling of hoses in the dark.



[Low weight and ergonomic design](#)

### Video

Watch this [video of the SPU 16 PC](#) and see its unique benefits yourself!

Go to our [website](#) for more information about this new product and other innovations.

**If you have any further questions, please contact your local dealer.**

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## World Rescue Challenge 2011

July 14<sup>th</sup> 2011 saw 23 teams from 8 countries converge on Wellington, New Zealand to take part in the Australasian and World Rescue Challenge. The two events, being held side by side, would find out who was at the top of their game in road traffic extrication and at the end of a gruelling 4 days, the Australasian and World champions would be crowned.



**New Zealand Fire Service in the heat of Battle**

But the event is not just about competing, it's also a **platform for learning and sharing best practice**. For that reason the first day of the challenge each team attended a learning symposium. A full day of education which promoted the latest techniques in technical and medical rescue and would ensure the competitors were ready for the competition that lay ahead.

As a major sponsor of the event, Holmatro were asked to deliver sessions throughout the day. Our rescue consultant, Ian Dunbar, delivered training sessions on cutting techniques which was attended by over 150 competitors. They were introduced to Holmatro products and looked at cutting capacity and new vehicle construction along with the very latest technologies that affect extrication.



Battle commenced on the first day of competition and current world champions South Wales Extrication Team from Bridgend were first in the pits at 6.50am. Over the next 3 days each team took part in 3 scenarios of differing complexity. Assessors from UK, Spain, South Africa, Republic of Ireland, Australia and New Zealand looked closely at 3 areas of rescue:

- Incident Command
- Technical Extrication
- Medical



**South Wales Extrication Team**

After each scenario, the teams were given a full debrief which outlines not only what they did well, but learning points to take forward.



**At the end of 3 days over 100 vehicles had been destroyed and more than 80 rescues performed, but who had come out on top?**

The new World Champions are Royal Berkshire (United Kingdom), in second place were Werribee Fire Brigade CFA Victoria, Australia, with Generalitat de Catalunya (Granollers) from Spain in third place. The Australasian title went to Werribee Fire Brigade.

All competitors improved their knowledge and skills over the four days, and now thoughts turn to London in 2012 where the world

title will be fought for all over again.

**If you have any further questions, please contact your local dealer.**

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## Photo of your Fire Department!

We are always looking for new photos of fire departments using Holmatro tools in a setting typical to their country. We use these pictures to update our means of communication (see for instance the overview of users worldwide on our [website](#)).

To make sure that your photo qualifies for publication, please send us an original photo following these criteria:

### Picture criteria:

- The fire brigade should hold or display their Holmatro tools in a setting that is typical of your country, e.g. near a landmark, in front of a well-known building or in a characteristic landscape. The accompanying pictures illustrate what type of photos we are looking for.
- Preferably digital pictures, which should be sent as high-resolution (300 dpi) TIFF or JPEG files only, on CD-ROM, DVD or by e-mail (we can receive up to 10 Mb).
- Picture details:
  - Organization Name
  - City
  - Region
  - Country
  - Description of the typical scenery in which the photograph was taken (e.g. name of building or landmark in the background).



**Please send your photo to our Marketing Department:**

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