Clinical Helicopter Access

Ambulance Rescue Helicopters
Ambulance Service of NSW

Cameron Edgar
4 step approach:

1. Access
2. Triage
3. Treat
4. Evacuate
2pm: Considerations;
> 1000 foot cliff
> Multiple climbers on cliff face
> Unable to winch direct to patient
> Several winch sites at cliff base
> Crew has specialist access skills
> 2.5hrs of light left
Excellence in Pre-Hospital Care

Triage

Clinical

Situational

3pm: Considerations;
> 70m from top
> 130m from bottom
> Unable to do direct winch evac
> Compound lower limb fractures
> Left foot partially severed
> Patient conscious with leg spasms
> Crew trained to provide care at height
Treat

5pm: Considerations;
> Vital signs stable
> Limited splinting
> 30 minutes to last light
> 200m to winch site
> Heavy bushland
> Compromised limb
> Air temp 10°C & falling
> Aircraft has 30mins on station time left
Evacuate

5 – 5:30pm: Considerations;
- Patient must be carried
- Light is fading
- Crew trained for overnight care
- Aircraft NVG winch capable
- Finite medical supplies
- Team been going for 4hrs & in 10th hr of shift
- Patient injured 5hrs ago
Traditional Helicopter ‘Access’
Helicopters as a ‘CLINICAL Access’ tool
When you combine; Medical + Aviation, as well as Teamwork, Discipline and Hardwork…

You get to do something AMAZING – save a life…
Thank you for your time...

Cameron Edgar
Operations Manager
Ambulance Rescue Helicopters
NSW Ambulance

cedgar@ambulance.nsw.gov.au