

TO: JUAN CIENFUEGOS, SOUTHWEST SYNERGISTIC SOLUTIONS

FROM: JOCOTENAGO, SACATEPEQUEZ, GUATEMALA FIRE DEPARTMENT

JUAN

I wanted to talk with you about your S-CUT tool which was introduced to our department by a Paramedic whom we have trained with over the years at our department. We have a department that has a population that is often struck by horrific multi-causality trauma incidents, most commonly are our over loaded buses which lose their brake systems on the mountains in our mountainous communities. All too often, these buses will attempt to save their passengers utilizing the “runaway truck ramps.”

Sadly, when the buses lose their brake systems on the mountains these overloaded buses have taken on such high speeds that they often continue up and over the ramp and continue off the cliff until it comes to rest, injuring numerous passengers.

Most recently was the volcano eruption that was traumatized miles of villages in the Sacatepequez region. This also caused severe traumatic events to the citizens in the outlying poorly accessible villages.

The S-CUT that was brought to our community has been a “god send”. Bus accidents will often present with over 30-40 trauma patients and our 1 or 2 ambulances are often filled to capacity with 10-12 patients to bring to our tiny hospitals miles away. The S-CUT has given the paramedic the ability to expose and conduct trauma triage at the scene and to make a decision as to which patients will need immediate transport to the hospital.

I know that things are conducted quite differently in the **United** States but we don't have the resources and thus a tool like the S-CUT tool is an expedient tool for the multi-causality incident for often only paramedic on the scene.

Regards

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