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EMSN Exclusive

From Iowa Farmland To Your Ambulance; The Invention of New EMS equipment

by Valerie DeFrance, EMSN Editor

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Fame and fortune was never a driving force for Nick. He has accomplished what he set out to do and is now seeking to sell the patent and let others take it from here, so he can get back to farming.

Nick Verbrugge is not involved in EMS, at least not in the traditional sense. In fact, Nick has never taken care of a prehospital patient in his life. But he hopes to soon sell the patent to his newly invented EMS equipment. I think you'll agree that this new innovation will have a profoundly positive effect on every single patient we transport.

In interviews with Verbrugge he reminded me of some of my Montana ranch relatives - one of America's 'salt of the earth' - quite happy to be quietly living and working on his Kanawha, Iowa, farmland, alongside his wife of many years.

IDEA

The seeds of inspiration for Nick's invention came (of course totally unexpectedly) from a ride in an ambulance on the rural back roads of Iowa. If his medical condition were not enough to make him profoundly uncomfortable -indeed painful - the ride surely was. This ambulance ride gave him valuable insights into the more problematical part of transport on rough rural roads. The seeds of an idea took root.

Like many a hard-working farmer who has discovered a problem, Nick's instinct to repair that which is broken drove him to seek a resolution. And, like most pragmatic farmers with their common sense approach to fixing a problem, Nick also had a willingness to invest in finding a solution. So he took some of the little financing and the time he did have to make things better.

Working with friends Bruce Sly, Jeff Burt, and Lawrence Basener from Access Machine in Wright County, Nick took on the mechanical and technical challenge of inventing what he has since christened *Ambu-Glide*.

UNIQUE

Ambu-Glide is a unique invention. Most of the types of 'new' EMS equipment we see these days are minor improvements or modifications of existing pieces of equipment or concepts. In contrast, ***Ambu-Glide*** a totally new product.

Ambu-Glide is a stretcher cushion system that can be fitted to new or existing ambulances. Using a pressure sensitive electronic device, controlled by an air module, gurneys “glide” or “float” during ambulance transports. It handles patients from 40 to 945 pounds. Painful bumping and jarring over rough roads is no longer experienced by the patient! Prehospital providers also benefit from working in a more stable environment.



The Ambu-Glide basic unit. The inner box and components are bolted to floor. Here the outer shell is raised to full height and will move up and down as road conditions vary.

LOADING

Loading the stretcher into the ambulance need not be altered in any fashion. The ***Ambu-Glide*** system locks the gurney into place and then supplies its 4 to 6 inches of cushioned air to smooth out the ride. The system automatically adjusts to both the patient’s weight and the roughness of the ride.

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Top view of the complete Ambu-Glide unit.

With ambulances becoming larger and heavier, suspensions are also stiffer. **Ambu-Glide** can take some, if not all, of the 'ride-shock' out of the trip, by increasing or decreasing the air cushion pressure – all done automatically. Rides that are more comfortable and less painful are sure to be a wonderful patient advantage.

COMPLETED

Verbrugge and friends worked for nearly a year on blueprints, electronics, construction and testing to refine their invention, down to the last detail, making sure the system works perfectly and can be retrofitted to both old and new ambulances with ease. The prototype has already made the demonstration rounds in Wright County, Iowa. **Ambu-Glide** is ready to be taken to the next step.



Ambu-Glide front view showing the gurney in transport position.

Fame and fortune was never a driving force for Nick. He has accomplished what he set out to do: produced a more comfortable method of transporting patients in an ambulance. And Nick is now seeking to sell the **Ambu-Glide** patent and let others take it from here, so he can get back to farming.

For more information about **Ambu-Glide** or purchasing the patent to this new invention contact:

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