SAFETY FIRST!

NMRA/NMCA brings Fire/Rescue in-house with Advanced Rescue Systems and Racequip

The goal of bringing the Safety team in-house was providing exceptional response times to incidents, while offering the latest and greatest rescue tools to the staff.

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A Ford F-350 Super Duty is outfitted with the latest safety/rescue equipment thanks to several companies, including Advanced Rescue Systems, TNT Rescue, Racequip, Mothers Polish, and Nitto Tire.

Safety has been the backbone of organized drag racing since the 1950s and that notion remains a vital part of the mission of NMRA/NMCA, the leaders in street-legal drag racing. The sanctioning bodies' commitment to safety is proven through its actions when last summer they formed an in-house Safety Team under the guidance and leadership of NMRA/NMCA's National Event Director and General Manager Rollie Miller.

With the goal of improving response times for on-track incidents and giving the rescue teams the proper tools to get the job accomplished, Miller didn't have to look far to find emergency tools — Chevrolet Performance Challenge Series racer Bryan Williams owns Advanced Rescue Systems, a leading distributor for TNT Rescue.

Last year the two sketched out a highly detailed list of equipment for a motorsports Fire/Rescue team to address the types of incidents in drag racing. By the end of the summer, Miller had the sanctioning bodies' Ford F-350 Super Duty truck outfitted with a set of tools and fire fighting gear.

"We are thrilled to partner with TNT Rescue, through Advanced Rescue Systems, for our dedicated NMRA/NMCA Safety truck. I have an extensive background in motorsports safety and have worked with their equipment in emergency situations. Our racers can feel safe knowing that we have the equipment and trained personnel to deal with any emergency situation," Miller said.

New this year is an assortment of tools that use the latest safety technology from TNT Rescue. It provided high-end, battery-operated tools to ensure there are no hoses or generators required to operate the equipment. Outfitted with a battery-operated cutter, ram, spreader, and combi tool, the F-350 also carries a fire-suppression tank, plus a hose and reel from Total Venue Concepts, designed for motorsport use by Miller. Several fire extinguishers in quick-grab silos line the side of the bed and several boxes of specialized tools are easily within reach. The pickup truck's bed also contains basic equipment to begin vehicle removal and cleanup once the driver is safe and the hazard eliminated.

The bed of the pick-up truck is filled with the necessary equipment to fight a fire and rescue a driver should the worst happen.

The TNT Rescue cutter, ram, spreader, and combi tool offer a reassuring sight and the goal is to never use them during an event. But the tools are ready for action and in good working order, should the need arise.

National Event Director and General Manager Rollie Miller formed a few different teams to use throughout the NMRA and NMCA seasons. Every team member is a veteran in fire/rescue operations and each has motorsport experience.

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This year Nitto Tire provided new tires for the Safety truck to ensure reliable performance is guaranteed under extreme circumstances. And we also raided the Car Show tent for an assortment of Mothers Polish products to keep the trucks clean — after all, the new guys on staff need to do something in the morning before the racing begins.

The Safety team is prepared to attack a fire thanks to fire jackets provided by Racequip, a company that is no stranger to the NMRA/NMCA community. Multi-layer fire jackets that carry SFI ratings are used to protect the safety team when it gets a little hotter than normal during their rescue efforts.

"We owe a special thanks to Bryan Williams of Advanced Rescue Systems for providing the TNT Rescue tools for the new Safety Team," shares Randy Jenkins, the NMRA/NMCA EMS Coordinator.

Miller sums it up, "Safety continues to be a priority for NMRA/NMCA and our in-house Safety team helps further separate us from other organizations and events." **FSC**

Here is the aftermath of a situation that involved the NMCA Safety team rescuing a driver using the TNT Rescue tools. VP Racing Fuels Xtreme Pro Mod racer Joe Baker was involved in a harrowing accident earlier in the season and the team extracted him quickly and cleanly. Baker was removed from the vehicle and transported to the hospital where he checked out just fine.

Bryan Williams of Advanced Rescue Systems knows how important racer safety is, as he competes in the Chevrolet Performance Challenge Series. Look for a feature on his race car in an upcoming issue.

SOURCES