

horses mean as much to him as his own life — but Corrigan's left knee smashed into a shelf jutting out about 12 inches from the wall.

"Once I hit the wall," Corrigan said, "I was 99 percent positive I'd broken my leg." But it wasn't until

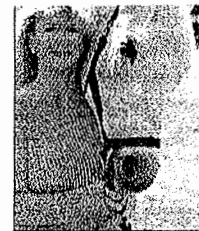
he dismounted and tried to put weight on his leg that he realized the extent of the damage. His leg immediately collapsed underneath him — "At that point I basically flopped to the ground" — and he began to bleed profusely.

Still, his concern at that point was primarily for Noee. "She's a great horse," Corrigan said. He had his wife call 911 and then take Noee to her stall to calm her.

After 5 1/2 hours of surgery and an eight-day stay at Rockville

training. And when Corrigan is ready to return to work, the horses will return to the Tolland facility he rents, he said.

"The amount of support I've received has been overwhelming," Corrigan said. "Horse people in general are a great family."



Bonnie Phillips is *The Courant's* city/suburban editor. Her horse is named Annie.

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READER SHOWCASE >>

Manchester's New Ambulances Designed To Catch Driver's Eye

Submitted by David Skoczulek
MANCHESTER

The Ambulance Service of Manchester (ASM) has used scientific research to increase the degree to which their ambulances can be easily seen and recognized by the human eye. Large contrasting blocks of color and highly reflective materials have been used to catch the driver's eye while responding to 911 calls.

Research conducted mostly in Europe recommends contrasting colors and shapes. Whether drivers are looking for an ambulance or not, large square blocks of color and reflective stripes that outline the entire ambulance are likely to catch their attention. The rear of the

ambulance was covered with large chevron stripes that are bright and contrasting colors to improve safety on the roadside.

Given the change to a more European-type ambulance, known as a Dodge Sprinter, ASM's look has become very European.

The service's Director of Operations, Terry Cote, said, "We have heard the public wondering if they are in Manchester, Connecticut or Manchester, England. Although the colors and patterns are unorthodox, we felt we were following the research to make sure everyone comes home safe at the end of the day."

The patterns and details ASM used are known as "Battenburg" design and are in use across

Europe, especially in the British Isles. The world's largest EMS agency, London Ambulance Service, converted their entire fleet to this design in 2004 to promote crew safety through a reduced number of accidents.

A material has also been applied to the windows in the patient compartment that protects patient privacy. This material is the same used on city buses that allow occupants to see out even though those on the outside cannot see inside.

ASM is a commercial ambulance service based in Manchester which uses 22 ambulances to serve seven towns and six hospitals. Ten such ambulances have been ordered by ASM for immediate use.



STEPHEN CONLEY

THE NEW ambulance design at Cromwell's EMS Expo.

New ambulances around Manchester

Ambulance Service of Manchester and Aetna Ambulance Service of Hartford took delivery of 10 new Sprinter ambulances. The new vehicles are slightly higher and narrower, have sirens with more than 10 new



settings including the sound the public associates with a European siren, and they have a sliding door as the entry on the side. The vehicles also include a five-point racecar style harness for the EMS crews to wear while in the back with patients. The stripes and lettering on the outside of the vehicles are 100 percent 3M reflective material.