

## Crash! ... and Burn?

**The Scenario:** Despite the heavy construction they've been doing along this stretch of freeway, you're making really good time on your nightly commute home from work when — 100 yards ahead of you — all hell breaks loose as a multi-vehicle accident unfurls. By the time you hit the brakes and manage a safe stop, you see a jackknifed tanker truck and a battered SUV with its front wheels hung up over the temporary cement divider, telling you, at the very least, you're not moving anytime soon.

Along with others, you jump out to investigate. Everyone's more or less OK except the driver of the SUV, who is unconscious and remains strapped in his seatbelt with his head against the driver's-side window because that side of the car is tilted toward the ground at about a 30-degree angle.

What's more, you clearly see gasoline dripping from both the SUV and the tanker truck, and the SUV's doors are wedged shut by the damage to the car, showing gaps between the doors and the surrounding frame where they've twisted away from each other. Any spark could turn this scene into an explosive inferno and burn that driver alive, which is why almost all the onlookers are backing away fast and calling for help on their cells.

**The Challenge:** Due to the construction, there's no shoulder, and now that the entire freeway is jammed with cars, you realize it would take emergency crews tens of minutes, if not considerably longer, to reach the scene. Do you just clear out like the others and hope the SUV driver survives until then? Or do you figure out some way to get him out of the car while you can? (The theme of this issue is gadgets, remember?)

**What You've Got:** A well-equipped roadside emergency pack with tools to do basic auto repair, including all the standard tools to change a flat; a very good first-aid kit with a heavy-duty emergency blanket; a flashlight and extra batteries; 100 feet of strong nylon rope; and — of course — your Swiss Army knife or Leatherman tool. In addition there's whatever would typically be found at a freeway construction area: rebar, steel plate, chain, concrete rubble, shovels, sledgehammers, pry bars, assorted framing lumber, etc.

The clock is ticking, the gas is dripping, and the only other people who haven't left yet are both looking at you like you're wearing a T-shirt that says ... *got plan?*

Send a detailed description of your MakeShift solution with sketches and/or photos to [makeshift@makezine.com](mailto:makeshift@makezine.com) by **Nov. 30, 2010**. If duplicate solutions are submitted, the winner will be determined by the quality of the explanation and presentation. The most plausible and most creative solutions will each win a MAKE T-shirt and a MAKE Pocket Ref. Think positive and include your shirt size and contact information with your solution. Good luck! For readers' solutions to previous MakeShift challenges, visit [makezine.com/makeshift](http://makezine.com/makeshift).

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