



Burns victim fell from ambulance

A builder who suffered 86% burns in a workshop accident "rolled" out of an airborne air ambulance taking him to hospital, an inquest has heard.

Joel Perry was engulfed in flames when petrol vapour ignited as he tried to start an engine in his Burtle workshop.

The 41-year-old was being flown to hospital in Weston-super-Mare after the accident when he tried to get out.

A Taunton coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death on Mr Perry who died in hospital from his burns.

Paramedic Timothy Partlow told the inquest Mr Perry had been in a stretcher with safety straps around his waist.

Tragic story

When he told Mr Perry there were two minutes to landing, the patient pulled himself out of his straps and "lunged towards the pilot's left-hand controls".

Mr Partlow said the patient got both doors open, and told how he and a colleague struggled with the patient who was "trying to exit the aircraft".

At between six and 10 feet, Mr Perry rolled backwards out of the aircraft into a hay field, and ran away before sitting down around 50 yards away.

Coroner Michael Rose said what had happened was a tragic story, and it was inevitable that Mr Perry would die from his burns whatever had happened afterwards.

"I can only conclude his mental state made him want to get out of the air ambulance immediately," he said.

Story from BBC NEWS:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/england/somerset/4337453.stm

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