



16<sup>th</sup> October 2007

**Ambulance crews praise Muswellbrook community**

Shortly after 11:30am, Ambulance crews were called to reports of a serious motor vehicle accident on the New England Highway between Aberdeen and Muswellbrook.

On arrival to the accident scene, Ambulance crews were impressed by the lengths that bystanders had gone to in assisting the injured at the scene.

“ We were very impressed by the other motorists who had stopped to render assistance at this scene” said Muswellbrook Station Ambulance Officer Tony Rockley.

“A group of bystanders had attached a chain to one of the cars to try and pull it away from the other burning vehicle. They successfully pulled it away before the other car caught alight”

“A number of motorists had fire extinguishers in their car which they had used to extinguish the fire from the burning vehicle. In fact, about nine extinguishers were lined up on the side of the road. ” Tony said.

A 50 yr old Armidale resident received severe burns to her feet after attempting to pull two seriously injured passengers from the vehicle. She was transported by road ambulance to Muswellbrook Hospital.

“The actions of this bystander were very noble. Without a doubt this accident could have been more tragic without her interventions” Tony said.

Sadly, a 29 year old male died at the accident scene and his 29 year old female passenger was flown to John Hunter Hospital in a critical condition.

The driver of the other vehicle, a 41 year old female was also flown to John Hunter Hospital in a critical condition with multiple fractures to her head, chest and arms.

The Ambulance Service of NSW encourages everyone to learn first aid. This can give you the confidence to assist when someone is injured or ill. To enrol in first aid course contact an accredited provider listed with the Work cover Authority.

For further information, please contact Ambulance Media on 9320 7796

**Media Unit**

Ambulance Service of New South Wales

Tel: 02 9320 7796

Fax: 02 9320 7804

Email: [media@ambulance.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@ambulance.nsw.gov.au)

Web: [www.ambulance.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ambulance.nsw.gov.au)