
Client: Northland Rescue

Vehicle: Ford Transit

Project: Vehicle Conversion – Ambulance fit out

Prepared by: Trident Community Equipment

Project Overview

Trident was engaged to complete a full conversion of the vehicle's rear compartment to accommodate both Stryker and flight stretcher systems, along with additional seating, cabinetry, and supporting equipment. The project involved stripping out the factory interior, fabricating custom components, and integrating specialist systems to meet the client's operational requirements.

Project Process

- The factory interior, wall coverings, and cabin pass-through wall were removed to create a clear workspace.
- The existing Tuff Deck floor insert and trim were stripped out, and all supplied parts were unboxed and prepared for fitment planning.
- Steel was procured and transported for fabrication of structural modifications, including strengthening channels beneath the vehicle.
- A custom plywood floor covering was produced and installed, supported by fabricated step infills to extend the usable floor area.
- Strengthening channels were measured, cut, and fitted beneath the vehicle, with underseal removed to ensure solid mounting points.
- A structural frame was built and installed to retain the stretcher rails, with extensive precision drilling required for correct alignment.
- Forward and rear restraint tracking's were installed, with additional plates fitted beneath the floor. The fuel tank was dropped to allow access for forward rail reinforcements.
- The client's Stryker and flight stretcher systems were test-fitted to confirm alignment, clearance, and mounting strategy.
- Ongoing consultation with the client guided stretcher placement, cabinet layout, and wall positioning throughout the project.

Scope of Work Completed

Interior & Flooring

- Removed factory flooring and wall coverings.
- Designed layout in consultation with client.

- Manufactured step infills to extend the flooring area.
- Cut, fitted, and sealed new plywood flooring.
- Laid vinyl covering and finished with aluminium edging.
- Installed and secured all restraint tracking and Stryker stretcher tracking

Seating & Accessibility

- Fitted two additional seats in the rear compartment.
- Installed an automatic step at the passenger sliding door for improved accessibility.

Walls, Ceiling & Cabinetry

- Framed and lined the walls and ceiling of the vehicle.
- Removed cabinetry from the old ambulance, modified, and refitted it to suit the new ambulance and layout.
- Manufactured and secured a custom stainless-steel table.
- Completed full sealing of floor, walls, and ceiling for hygiene and durability.

Electrical & Systems

- Coordinated with an auto electrician to install internal LED lighting, emergency lights, and sirens.
- Installed a 230V power outlet in collaboration with an electrician.
- Liaised with a panel beater to fit side windows into both sliding doors.

Stretcher Systems

- Installed Stryker stretcher rails and restraint tracking.
- Set up the stretcher system for reliable and safe operation.
- Confirmed fitment and functionality of both Stryker and flight stretcher systems.

Outcome

The vehicle has been comprehensively modified to provide a safe, functional, and durable fit-out that meets the client's operational requirements. The completed works deliver:

- A reinforced flooring system with integrated stretcher and restraint tracking.
- Secure occupant seating and enhanced accessibility.
- Functional cabinetry and work surfaces adapted from an existing ambulance.
- Fully integrated lighting, emergency systems, and electrical outlets.
- Properly mounted and operational Stryker and flight stretcher systems.

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The result is a robust, professional-grade vehicle conversion ready for immediate deployment and capable of supporting the client's operational needs into the future.

Statement of Acknowledgement

Trident is extremely proud to have delivered this project for the Northland Rescue Helicopter Service. As a family-owned and operated business based in Northland, we take great pride in contributing our skills and expertise to support the safety and wellbeing of our community.

This project was more than just a vehicle conversion for us — it was an opportunity to give back to an organisation that plays such a vital role in saving lives across Te Tai Tokerau. The NEST Trust and their team of dedicated professionals carry out extraordinary work under immense pressure, and we were honoured to contribute in a way that directly supports their mission.

Our team approached this project with the same values that drive our business every day: commitment to quality, collaboration, and community. We are proud to know that the solutions we provided will assist NEST in carrying out their critical operations and making a difference where it matters most.

As Northlanders ourselves, it is a privilege to stand alongside the Northland Rescue Helicopter Service, and we look forward to continuing to support the incredible work they do for our region.

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