



**FALMOUTH VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION**  
**FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
***SAFETY BULLETIN***

**SUBJECT: HELMET**

**NUMBER:**  
SB08-004

**APPROVED:**

Kevin Good, Fire Chief

**INITIATED**  
02/2008

**PREPARED:**

James Morris, Sr., Safety Officer

**REVISED**

**Firefighter millimeters from death**



A fireman cheated death by millimeters after a rod from an exploding car speared his helmet. The red-hot missile was traveling so fast it punched a hole through a steel door before slamming into Henderson firefighter Gary Wright's Kevlar helmet.

FF Wright was bending forward to adjust the strap on his helmet. The metal strut hit him with so much force it threw his head back.

FF Wright was getting ready to fight a blaze, which had engulfed an old shed full of cars in Oratia when the steel strut-rod exploded from a van about 2130 on July 6. An investigation found the rod had traveled 3m from the van through the steel garage door, before traveling an additional 16m and into the top of FF Wright's helmet.

Waitakere City Fire Chief Bill Ellis said the rod had gone through the outer Kevlar layer of the helmet but had been *stopped from going any further by a second protective inner layer.*

Mr. Wright was left with a headache and some pain on the left side of his head where his helmet strap was pulled back by the force of the impact.

“Another example of why we don't modify our helmets”