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NEW AIRCRAFT FIRE RESCUE TENDER:

The great problem on aircrash fires has always been how to get trapped people, still alive, from the burning fuselage. At Laverton air base, Victoria, the Civil Aviation Department tests new methods. The tender provides foam to smother the fire set in an old Lincoln bomber while asbestos suited fire fighters race towards the plane itself to cut the passengers free. They use a portable electric saw to cut through the fuselage taking out a square section through which those inside can escape. All right when the heat's not particularly intense - but when it is the C.D.A. has an Australian invented tender to go into action. The tender moves swiftly towards the wreck laying down a blanket of foam as it goes.

But watch the front of the tender. See that unusual type of circular saw rotating. Now it's cutting through the fuselage, leaving an escape hole. Asbestos escape blankets are dropped, firemen can enter the plane to drag victims clear. An Australian invention that could save lives in that biggest danger of all flying - the fire that follows a crash landing. It is expected to be standard equipment on all Australian airports soon.