

'Nothing short of a miracle': Mechanic survives angle grinder puncturing his heart in three places after shock accident

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- By John Shammass

The classic car technician has made a stunning recovery after medical staff cut his chest open to perform a rarely-successful emergency procedure

Nigel Howard



Recovery: Mark McQuoid in hospital

A "miracle" car mechanic survived an angle grinder backfiring and puncturing his heart in three places.

Father-of-two Mark McQuoid was refitting a private gym when his powertool recoiled as he cut through a wall, leaving him pierced by its blade.

The 54-year-old, who usually works on classic cars, was helping out his friend Chris Quinn when the accident happened.

Mr Quinn rang 999, with paramedics rushing him to St George's hospital in south London where they performed an emergency resuscitative thoractomy.

McQuoid, from Wimbledon, told the London Evening Standard: "The fact I am alive now is nothing short of a miracle.

"The machine recoiled and I felt the thud into my chest. I looked down and there was only a hole the size of my finger in my jacket and in my chest.

Getty



Accident: An angle grinder similar to the one used by Mark

"But I think I just sensed something was seriously wrong. I tried to stay on my feet and conscious as much as I could but I eventually passed out. Next thing I remember is being in the ambulance.

"They performed this operation at St George's - I'm the only one to survive it.

"They opened the whole front of my chest to get to my heart so they could sew it up where it was punctured.

“I more or less did die when I got to A&E. The doctors told me my heart had stopped but I hadn’t flatlined. It gives me goosebumps when I think about it.

“I have so much praise for everybody in the NHS who was involved. They deserve a lot of credit.

“Without them I wouldn’t be here.”

The shocking accident has even inspired his 15-year-old daughter Emma to become a paramedic.

Mark added: “She’s really inspired by how they saved my life.

“Now she wants to do it herself. She’s naturally very caring and has been helping nurse me back to health.

“The experience has made me value my life so much more.”

The London Ambulance Service crew who saved Mark have since met up with the mechanic to see how he is getting on.

Paramedic Dave Biginton said: “I was amazed when I heard Mark had recovered, because he had been very unwell when we got there.

“It’s great to get a result like this.”