

Jet suit 'could save lives'



- 1 A jet suit for paramedics which would see patients reached in minutes by a “flying” medic has been tested by the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS). Andy Mawson, director of operations at GNAAS, came up with the idea and described seeing it as “awesome”. He said it meant a paramedic could “fly” to a fell top in 90 seconds rather than taking 30 minutes on foot.
- 2 Mr Mawson said: “There are dozens of patients every month within the complex and hilly but relatively small geographical footprint of the Lakes. We could see the need. What we didn’t know for sure is how this would work in practice. Well we’ve seen it now and it is, quite honestly, awesome.” Mr Mawson said the exercise had demonstrated the huge potential of using jet suits to deliver critical care services.
- 3 The suits have two mini engines on each arm and one on the back allowing the paramedic to control their movement just by moving their hands. “The biggest advantage is its speed,” Mr Mawson said. If the idea takes off, the flying paramedic will be armed with a medical kit, with strong pain relief for walkers who may have suffered fractures, and a defibrillator for those who may have suffered a heart attack. Whereas it might normally have taken a paramedic up to an hour to reach the patient, in a jet pack it may only take them a few minutes, and that could mean the difference between life and death.

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