

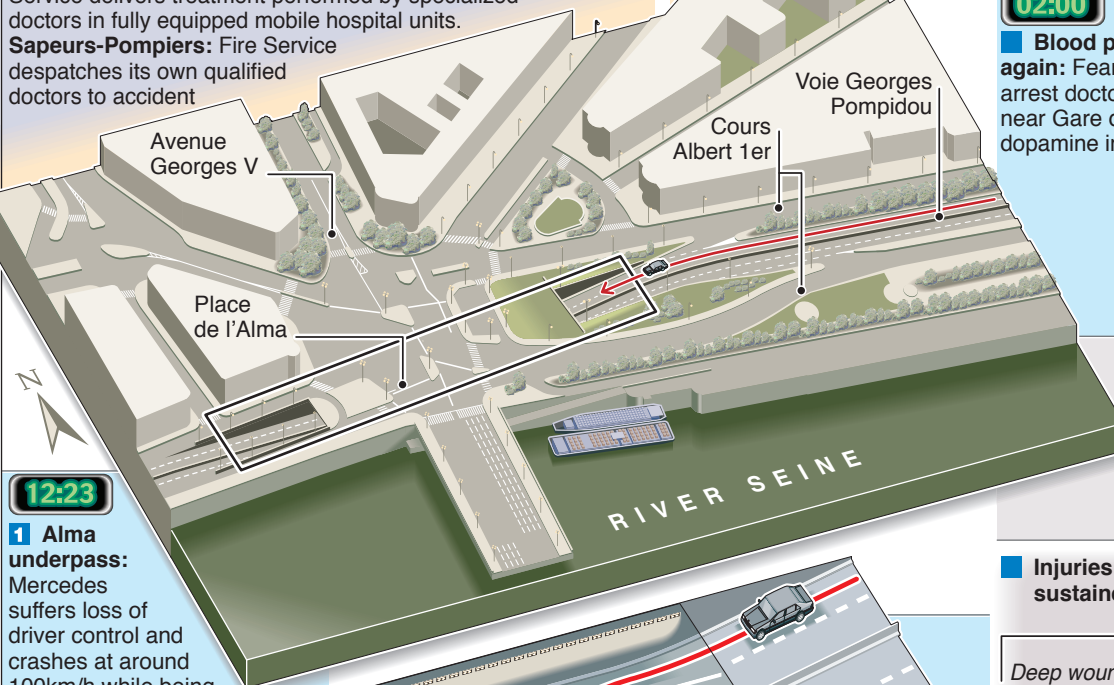
## French Emergency

**Medicine:** In contrast to British and American emergency treatment – where accident victim is rushed to operating room – French favour extensive on-site treatment before moving patient to hospital



**Service d'Aide Médicale d'Urgence (SAMU):** Paris Ambulance Service delivers treatment performed by specialized doctors in fully equipped mobile hospital units.

**Sapeurs-Pompiers:** Fire Service despatches its own qualified doctors to accident



**12:23**

**1 Alma underpass:** Mercedes suffers loss of driver control and crashes at around 100km/h while being chased by paparazzi

**12:24**

**2 Off-duty doctor:** Stops on opposite carriageway and calls Sapeurs-Pompiers. Dodi al-Fayed and Henri Paul are dead. He is first person to provide medical treatment to Princess Diana. Her eyes are open and she mumbles several indistinct phrases

**12:30**

**3 Paramedics:** Two police patrol officers joined by two Sapeurs-Pompiers personnel are first emergency services to arrive. They provide emergency medical treatment to Diana and Trevor Rees-Jones

# Battle to save Princess Diana

On August 31, 1997, at 12:23am, a Mercedes bearing Princess Diana, Dodi al-Fayed, their driver, Henri Paul, and bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, crashed in the Alma tunnel in Paris. Paul and al-Fayed were killed instantly while Rees-Jones suffered severe facial injuries and a broken wrist. Physicians fought for three and a half hours to save the princess until she was pronounced dead at 04:00am



**02:00**

**Blood pressure falls again:** Fearing further cardiac arrest doctor stops ambulance near Gare d'Austerlitz. Level of dopamine increased to stabilise blood pressure. Journey to La Pitié proceeds slowly – effects of shocks and bumps could exacerbate internal injuries

**02:06**

**La Pitié:** Ambulance arrives at hospital. Princess Diana is unconscious but still alive

**02:06-02:20**

**Emergency department:** Chest and pelvic area X rays reveal Diana is bleeding internally. She is immediately treated with **thoracic drain** but haemorrhaging persists. Diana suffers **third cardiac arrest** – doctors inject large doses of **epinephrine (adrenaline)** directly into her heart. Patient is transfused with O negative blood, as her blood group has not been established

**02:20-03:00**

**Operating theatre:** Doctors perform emergency right-hand **thoracotomy**, opening chest to find cause of bleeding. **Heart stops for fourth time** – **cardiac massage performed while surgery continues.** Source of bleeding is identified as tear in **pulmonary vein**. This is sutured and haemorrhage brought under control

**03:00-04:00**

**Attempted resuscitation:** Surgical team continues adrenaline treatment, several micro-volted defibrillations and heart massage but despite these efforts Diana's heart does not restart

**04:00**

**Diana, Princess of Wales is pronounced dead**

**Injuries sustained**

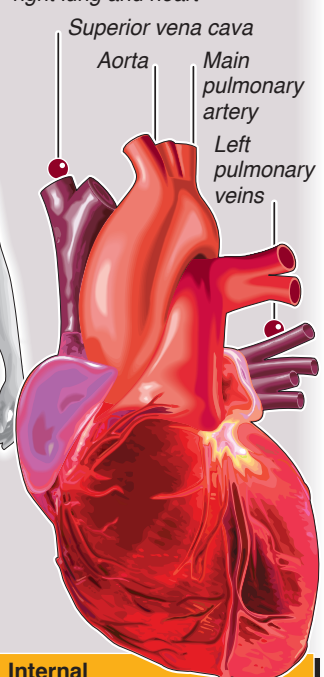
Deep wound to forehead, bleeding from nose and mouth

Right arm fractured

Right wrist fractured

Wound to right thigh

Internal bleeding compresses right lung and heart



Internal bleeding caused by partial rupture of upper left pulmonary vein – result of major shock or deceleration

**01:18**

**Diana moved to SAMU ambulance:** More detailed examination reveals right chest trauma suggesting internal bleeding, also right arm and thigh injuries

**01:25**

**Blood pressure falls:** Additional dopamine administered. SAMU Control arranges for patient to be admitted to **Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital**. Closer hospital, **Hôtel-Dieu**, does not have heart surgery teams or facilities to receive casualties with multiple injuries

**01:41**

**5 Journey to Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital begins**

**12:40**

**4 SAMU:** Specialist doctor in anaesthetics and intensive care takes over treatment – **dopamine drip** administered to stabilise Diana's falling blood pressure. For 20 minutes doctor and Sapeurs-Pompiers struggle to free her from wreckage. During this period Diana suffers **cardiac arrest**. **Intubation tube** inserted to keep her airway open. **Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)** restores heartbeat

**01:00**

**After being freed:** Diana suffers second cardiac arrest, emergency CPR applied until heart starts beating again