

# **GAGE AND THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESCUE**

**By Jasmine Mackay**

Hi, my name is Gage, and I'm a Rescue Squad. In this story, me and my best friend Red the Fire Truck have to rescue some race cars. It all started when Speedy got jealous...

"Did you hear, Gage?" Beetle asked. I glanced over at her. "Hear what?" I asked. "Speedy's planning to race on the off road track tomorrow," she said. I was confused. "But I thought Speedy was a tarseal race car." From behind me, Red spoke up. "He is. But after Cruiser got all the attention, I reckon Speedy's jealous." "Jealous? Of Cruiser? But Speedy's one of the best tarseal racers around! Why would an off roader bother him? Guys, I've got a bad feeling about this. Speedy's not built for off road conditions." Ahi came up alongside the three of us. "Well, we're getting the front row seats. We're the only rescue team around."

The cars were all lined up. My best friend Red the fire truck was beside me as we watched the racers. "Ready, set, go!!" came the shout. Gravel and dust sprayed out from behind the race cars as they all took off. Just a few feet from the starting line I saw trouble – Speedy hit a rock, gouging his engine. There was a terrible crunching sound and I shuddered. That was bad news for Speedy. But he carried on as though nothing had happened! He had to be injured from that, right? "Looks like trouble, guys," said Ahi, "Move out!" With Red in the lead, we followed the racers. We soon left the dirt and reached the mountain. "Take it easy, Gage," Red reminded me as I revved my engine, "No need to risk our lives unnecessarily." I knew he was right, but I was worried about Speedy. The track on the other side of the mountain was steep. I could hear the roar of engines and the steady whir of Unit 28. We reached the top of the mountain at last, and that's when disaster struck. The first thing I noticed was the height. I'm not afraid of heights myself, but I was afraid for the racers.

One wrong move and they could go over the edge, and they'd be lucky to survive. Then suddenly there was a squeal of tyres and a crunch of metal hitting metal. Sunray tipped over and slid a few feet towards the edge. Cruiser tried to stop but he hit Sunray and they both flipped over the edge, landing in a ditch. "Smoke!" I said, seeing a wisp of gray haze come from Cruiser's engine. Then BOOF! Sunray was on fire! "Red, hose Sunray down first!" Ahi ordered as we hurtled towards the scene, lights flashing and sirens sounding out a warning. Ahi and me stopped on the ledge as Red aimed a spray of water at Sunray. Both cars were laying on their side, dented and scratched. Suddenly I heard Unit 28 approach us. I looked up. "Speedy's fallen down the cliff!" he said urgently. Ahi surveyed the scene just below us. "Gage, we've got things under control for now," he told me, "Go check out Speedy, but be careful!" He didn't need to add that last part about being careful. I carefully made my way towards Speedy. He was badly dented but I couldn't see any smoke. "Hey Speedy, you alright?" I asked as soon as I was close enough. "A few dents, but other than that I'm ok," Speedy replied. I didn't believe him at all. After a crash like that he'd surely be needing a free ride to Rampart. "Well if that's all guess your pretty lucky huh?" I said anyway, as Unit 28 arrived to take Speedy to the hospital. "Well if you say so," Speedy said, not sounding convinced. I hooked him up and Unit 28 took him away. When I got back to Ahi and Red, the fires were out. "Free helicopter rides for you two," I couldn't help grinning. Cruiser sighed. "Aw, come on, you know it could be worse," I said. I suddenly remembered somebody mentioning how one of the race cars was scared of heights. Was that Cruiser? I couldn't remember. Unit 28 arrived and took Sunray away, then a short time later returned for Cruiser. "You guys wanna drop by the hospital?" asked Red as the chopper faded into the distance. "Sure," I said, "I guess that rock at the start DID do some damage – to Speedy's brakes."

At Rampart, Cruiser, Speedy, and Sunray were with the doctor, so we crowded into the cramped waiting room. "Man, it's like everybody's in here," I complained. Red found that funny. The doctor came out and asked some of the other cars if they wanted to see any of the injured racers. A few of them, including the beautiful Bema, followed him back into the room. I noticed the

TV van drive over to us. “Hey, are you guys from Station 6?” he asked. “Uh, yeah,” Ahi replied hesitantly. “A lot of the cars around here consider you three to be heroes after what you did today!” said the TV van. “Do you mind if I come by the station later?” the TV van asked, “I’d like to interview you.”

“Sure,” said Ahi. I couldn’t believe it – I was going to be on TV! The doctor came back out and headed our way. “All the racers you rescued are going to be fine,” he said, “After a little rest they should be back on the tracks. They’ll be staying here for a few days, though.” I felt sorry for them. Spending a few days at Rampart didn’t sound very much fun. As the TV van and the doctor drove off, Red said to me, “Hey, Gage, with any luck Bema will see you on TV!” I glared at him and responded, “Shut up, Red!” I didn’t want anyone to know that’s exactly what I wanted!