Health ONE EMS
Emergency Medical Services

# Scene Size Up

## BSI

- Always have BSI equipment available. Anticipate the need for BSI.
- Use appropriate equipment to prevent exposure

## Scene Size Up

Determining any threats to your own safety or to the safety of your patients or bystanders, to determine the nature of the call, and to decide if you will need additional help

## Scene Safety

An assessment to assure the well-being of the EMT-Basic

- Protect bystanders (prevent them from becoming patients)
- Never enter an unsafe scene
- Make scene safe or call for someone who can

## Danger Zone

Minimum 50’ around scene, further if:

- Fuel spill
- Fire
- Hazardous materials
- Downed power lines

## Scene Violence

Use scene clues:

- Fighting
- Loud voices
- Alcohol/drug use
- Unusual silence
- Prior experience

## Mechanism of Injury/Nature of Illness

The physical event that caused an injury (fall, motor vehicle accident, etc.)

Discussion

What do you consider significant mechanism of injury and why

Determined from:

- Patient
- Family
- Bystander
- Observation of the scene

### Motor Vehicle Collision-Rotational

- May have multiple impacts
- Ejection
- Deformed windshield, steering wheel, etc.
- Amount of vehicle deformity
- Seat belt use
- Motorcycles
- All-terrain vehicles
- Snowmobiles
- Jet-ski

## Mechanism of Injury: Falls

- Distance patient fell
- Part of body that struck surface
- Type of surface landed on
- Did anything break the fall?

## Penetrating Trauma

- Velocity
  - Low velocity-knife
  - Medium velocity-handgun, shotgun
  - High velocity-rifle
- Body region penetrated
- Exit wounds

## Nature of Illness: Medical Patient

### Sources of Information

- Scene
- Patient
- Family and bystanders

## Adequacy of Resources

- Number of patients?
- Hazardous materials?
- Fire or rescue?
- Unusual situations?
- Call for assistance before beginning care
- Use triage procedures if necessary

## Review Questions

- Why must BSI be considered during the size-up?

- List several factors which may make a scene unsafe
- Describe ways to determine information about the nature of medical emergencies
- For each of the following mechanisms of injury, list several things to look for or consider:
    - Falls
    - Motor vehicle accidents
    - Penetrating trauma

## Street Scenes

- What other scene size-up issues are still left to consider?
- Is the scene now safe, or do other precautions need to be taken?
- What BSI precautions should be considered?
- When the second ambulance arrives, where should it be located in relation to the collision scene?
- What precautions should you take to protect the patient from any further harm while they are being extricated from the vehicle?
- How should you plan to make sure that you can safely get the patient from the scene to the ambulance?