Chapter 33
Gaining Access

Overview
- Fundamentals of Extrication
- Safety and Equipment
  - Personal Safety
  - Patient Safety
  - Other Safety Issues
- Accessing the Patient
- Removing the Patient

Fundamentals of Extrication
- Role of the EMT-Basic
  - EMTs respond to calls where patients may be trapped
  - Nonrescue service EMTs
  - Rescue service EMTs

Copyright © 2013 by Jones & Bartlett Learning, LLC, an Ascend Learning Company
Fundamentals of Extrication

- Nonrescue
  - Administer necessary care to the patient before extrication and ensure that the patient is removed in a way to minimize further injury
  - Patient care precedes extrication unless delayed movement would endanger life of the patient or rescuer
  - The nonrescue EMT should cooperate with the activities of the rescuers and not allow their activities to interfere with patient care

Fundamentals of Extrication

- Rescue EMS
  - In some instances, the EMS providers are also the rescue providers
  - A chain of command should be established to ensure patient care priorities
    - Administer necessary care to the patient before extrication and ensure that the patient is removed in a way to minimize further injury
    - Patient care precedes extrication unless delayed movement would endanger life of the patient or rescuer

Safety and Equipment

- Personal safety
  - The No. 1 priority for all EMS personnel
  - Protective clothing that is appropriate for the situation should be used
Safety and Equipment

- Patient safety
  - Following the safety of the EMS responders, the next priority is the safety of the patient.
  - The patient should be informed of the unique aspects of extrication.
  - The patient should be protected from broken glass, sharp metal, and other hazards, including the environment.

Safety and Equipment

- Minimize the number of people around the vehicle.

Safety and Equipment

- Other safety issues
  - Hazardous materials
  - Fire
  - Power lines
  - Unstable vehicles
Safety and Equipment

- Ensure that the vehicle is stable before entering.

Accessing the Patient

- Simple access
  - Does not require equipment
  - Try opening each door
  - Roll down windows
  - Have patient unlock doors

- Complex access
  - Requires use of tools, special equipment
  - These are separate programs that should be taken
Removing the Patient

- Maintain cervical spine stabilization
- Complete initial assessment
- Provide critical interventions
- Immobilize spine securely
  - Short spine board
  - Rapid extrication considerations
- Move the patient, not the immobilization device
- Use sufficient personnel
- Choose path of least resistance
- Continue to protect patient from hazards

Summary

- Fundamentals of Extrication
- Safety and Equipment
  - Personal Safety
  - Patient Safety
  - Other Safety Issues
- Accessing the Patient
- Removing the Patient