Chapter 34
Overview: Special Response Situations

Overview

- Hazardous Materials
  - Extent of the Problems
  - Safety Concerns
  - Approaching the Scene
  - Information Resources
  - Procedures
  - Education for Emergency Medical Services Responders
- Incident Management Systems
  - Structure of Responsibilities
  - Role of the Emergency Medical Technician
- Multiple-Casualty Situations
  - Triage
  - Procedures

Hazardous Materials

- Hazardous materials
  - Extent of the problem
  - Common problem
  - Extent unknown
  - Hazardous materials come in many forms
Hazardous Materials

- Safety concerns
  - EMT-Basic and crew
    - Obtain information
    - Emergency Response Guidebook
    - Keep scene secure until help arrives
  - Patient
  - Public

Hazardous Materials

- Approaching the scene
  - Identification
    - Occupancy
    - Containers—size/shape
    - Placards
    - Shipping papers
    - Senses

Hazardous Materials

- General procedures
  - Park upwind/uphill from the incident, safe distance
  - Keep unnecessary people away from area
  - Isolate the area
    - Keep people out
    - Do not enter unless fully protected with proper equipment and SCBA
  - Avoid contact with material
  - Remove patients to a safe zone, if no risk to EMT-Basic
  - Do not enter a hazardous materials area unless you are trained as a hazardous materials rescuer
Hazardous Materials

- Information resources
  - Placards
  - Local hazardous material response team
  - CHEMTREC (800-424-9300)
  - Materials safety data sheets (MSDS)

Hazardous Materials

Hazardous Materials
Hazardous Materials

- Procedures
  - Approach scene with caution
  - Identify hazards, placards, shipping papers
  - Ensure safety around the scene
  - Obtain additional help
  - Decide whether it is safe to enter the scene

Hazardous Materials

- Education for EMS responders
  - Five levels
    - First responder awareness
    - First responder operations
    - Hazardous materials technicians
    - Hazardous materials specialist
    - On-scene incident commander

Incident Management Systems

- An incident management system has been developed to assist with the control, direction, and coordination of emergency response resources
- Provides an orderly means of communication and information for decision making
- Interactions with other agencies are easier because of the single coordination
Incident Management Systems

- Structure of responsibilities
  - Extrication sector
  - Treatment sector
  - Transportation sector
  - Staging sector
  - Supply sector
  - Triage sector

Incident Management Systems

Role of the Emergency Medical Technician
- Individuals at the scene will be assigned to particular roles in one of the sectors
- On arrival, the EMT-Basic should report to the sector officer for specific duties
- Once assigned a specific task, the EMT-Basic should complete the task and report back to the sector officer
Multiple-Casualty Situations

- An event that places a great demand on resources, be it equipment or personnel

Triage

- Sorting multiple casualties into priorities for emergency care or transportation to definitive care. Priorities are given in three levels

Triage

- A tag system is often used to identify priorities
Triage

- Procedures
  - Most knowledgeable EMS provider arriving on the scene first becomes triage officer
  - Additional help should be requested
  - Perform initial assessment on all patients first
  - Categorize patients by severity

Triage

- Highest priority
  - Airway and breathing difficulties
  - Uncontrolled or severe bleeding
  - Decreased mental status
  - Patients with severe medical problems
  - Shock (hypoperfusion)
  - Severe burns

Triage

- Second priority
  - Burns without airway problems
  - Major or multiple bone or joint injuries
  - Back injuries with or without spinal cord damage
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Triage

- Lowest priority
  - Minor painful, swollen, deformed extremities
  - Minor soft tissue injuries
  - Death

Multiple-Casualty Situations

- Assign available personnel and equipment to priority one patients
- Patient transport decisions are based on a variety of factors
  - Prioritization
  - Destination facilities
  - Transportation resources
- Triage officer remains at scene to assign and coordinate personnel, supplies, and vehicles

Summary

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