Chapter 1

The First Responder

♦ KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES

1. Define the purpose of the emergency medical services (EMS) system.

2. Describe each event of the EMS response.

3. Explain how a first responder differs from a citizen responder and from an emergency medical technician.

4. List occupations that may require individuals to respond to emergencies.

5. List six desirable first responder characteristics.

6. Describe the responsibilities of a first responder.

7. Identify eight legal considerations for first responders.

8. Define the key terms for this chapter.
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KEY POINTS

Links in the Chain of Survival

1. Citizen response.
2. Rapid activation of EMS.
3. First responder care.
5. Hospital care.
6. Rehabilitation.

Traditional First Responders

- Fire fighters.
- Law enforcement personnel.

Nontraditional First Responders

- Industrial safety personnel.
- Athletic trainers.
- Ski patrollers.
- Disaster team members.
- First aid station attendants.
- Lifeguards.

First Responder Characteristics

- Maintains a caring and professional attitude.
- Controls fears.
- Presents a professional appearance.
- Maintains skills and knowledge.
- Stays healthy.
Primary Responsibilities of First Responders

♦ Ensure the safety of self and others.
♦ Gain access to the casualty.
♦ Identify life-threatening conditions.
♦ Summon more advanced medical personnel, when necessary.
♦ Provide care.
♦ Assist more advanced medical personnel.

Secondary Responsibilities of First Responders

♦ Summon specialized assistance.
♦ Control and direct bystanders.
♦ Record actions.
♦ Reassure others at the scene.

Legal Considerations

♦ Duty to act.
♦ Standard of care.
♦ Negligence.
♦ Good Samaritan laws.
♦ Consent.
♦ Refusal of care.
♦ Abandonment.
♦ Confidentiality.
♦ Record keeping.

Four Components of Negligence

♦ Duty.
♦ Breach of Duty.
♦ Cause.
♦ Damage.

Obtain Consent Before Providing Care

♦ Identify yourself.
♦ State your level of training.
♦ Explain what may be wrong.
♦ Explain what you plan to do.
♦ LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Matching

Match each term with its definition. Write its letter on the line in front of the definition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Terms</th>
<th>Definitions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Citizen responder</td>
<td>1._____A person who has successfully completed a province-approved emergency care training program; paramedics are included in this group</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Emergency medical services (EMS) system</td>
<td>2._____Permission to provide care, given by an ill or injured person</td>
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<td>c. Emergency medical technician</td>
<td>3._____A lay person who recognizes an emergency and decides to help</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. First responder</td>
<td>4._____Failure to provide the appropriate level of care, which leads to injury of or damage to a casualty</td>
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<td>e. Consent</td>
<td>5._____A network of community resources and medical personnel that provides emergency care to casualties of injury or sudden illness</td>
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<td>f. Negligence</td>
<td>6._____A person, such as a police officer or fire fighter, trained in emergency care; the link between citizen responder care and advanced prehospital care</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. The EMS system "chain of survival" links a series of events that improves outcomes for ill or injured casualties. Write in the events that make up the links.

a. __________________________

b. __________________________

c. __________________________

d. __________________________

e. __________________________

f. __________________________

2. Effective first responders have certain characteristics that help them in their work. List at least three of these

1. __________________________
2. __________________________
3. __________________________

♦ CASE STUDY

Read the case study and answer the questions that follow.

Case 1.1

While you are returning home one evening from work, the car in front of you suddenly crosses the center line and crashes into an embankment on the opposite side of the road. As you pull up next to the car, you notice that the driver is slumped across the steering wheel and is not moving.

1. In this situation, do you have a duty to act? If so, why?

__________________________________________
__________________________________________

2. If you decide to act in this situation, your first concern should be to

a. Determine threats to the casualty.

b. Summon advanced medical personnel, as needed.

c. Provide care for the casualty(s).

d. Ensure safety for yourself and any bystanders.

3. What potential dangers to you and any bystanders at the scene may be present?

__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________

4. T F After the casualty has been cared for, you should discuss the care you gave and any information you learned about the casualty with lawyers and reporters.

♦ VIDEO SEGMENTS

1 – Welcome to EMS
2 – Well-Being of the EMT
3 – Medical, Legal ad Ethics
4 – The Release Form
5 – In the Back of the Ambulance
6 – In the Emergency Department
♦ SELF-ASSESSMENT

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. Effective first responders have certain characteristics that help them in their work. Which of the following is one of those characteristics?
   a. Staying fit with daily exercise and a healthy diet
   b. Responding quickly and safely to the emergency scene
   c. Providing necessary emergency care
   d. Controlling all responders at the emergency scene

2. Bringing rapid medical care to the casualty rather than bringing the casualty to medical care is a basic principle of the:
   a. Triage system.
   b. Emergency medical services (EMS) system.
   c. First responder system.

3. In an emergency, the first action of the citizen responder is to recognize that an emergency exists. Which is the second and most critical action?
   a. Providing care to the injured person
   b. Directing traffic around the scene
   c. Activating the EMS system by calling 9-1-1 or the local EMS number
   d. Taking the casualty to the nearest emergency medical care facility

4. Which of the following workers may be a first responder?
   a. Police officer
   b. Industrial safety personnel
   c. Athletic trainer
   d. All of the above

5. Which person in the EMS system provides the transition between care given by the citizen responder and that provided by more advanced medical personnel?
   a. EMS dispatcher
   b. First responder
   c. Emergency medical technician
   d. Paramedic

6. When taking action at an emergency scene, one of your roles and responsibilities is to
   a. Determine any threats to the casualty's life.
   b. Keep your skills and knowledge up to date.
   c. Contact the casualty's family or friends.
   d. Transport the casualty to a hospital.
7. Which statement best describes the emergency medical services (EMS) system?
   a. The EMS system provides an ambulance to transport the casualty to the hospital.
   b. The EMS system consists of community resources organized to care for casualties of sudden illness or injury.
   c. Personnel and equipment for removing casualties from dangerous locations are part of the EMS system.
   d. The EMS system is organized to prevent the occurrence of injuries and sudden illness.

8. Ending care of an ill or injured person without that person's consent, or without ensuring that someone with equal or greater training will continue that care, is called
   a. Consent.
   b. Good Samaritan laws.
   c. Refusal of care.
   d. Abandonment.

9. Which link in the chain of survival has the goal of returning the injured or ill person to his or her previous state of health?
   a. First responder care
   b. Extended care
   c. More advanced prehospital care
   d. Hospital care

10. What should you as a first responder do if a conscious, mentally competent 30-year-old refuses your offer to provide care for non life-threatening injuries?
    a. Request law enforcement personnel to place the person in protective custody.
    b. Contact the casualty's personal physician.
    c. Repeat your request to help.
    d. Immediately leave the scene.

11. Good Samaritan laws may offer protection to a first responder in which of these situations?
    a. Gross negligence.
    b. Intentional injury.
    c. Willful misconduct.
    d. Care rendered in good faith.

12. Which of the following is not a major responsibility of first responders?
    a. Ensuring self and bystander safety.
    b. Summoning advanced medical personnel.
    c. Gaining access to the casualty.
    d. Diagnosing a casualty's specific problem.
13. Laws that protect people who willingly give emergency care without accepting anything in return are called

a. Citizen Responder laws.

b. Hold Harmless laws.

c. Good Samaritan laws.

d. Medical Immunity laws.
Answers to Exercises
Unit 1-The First Responder

Matching: (Pg. 2)
1. c
2. e
3. a
4. f
5. b
6. d

Short Answer:
1. Citizen response; Early activation of EMS; First responder care; Advanced prehospital care; Hospital care; Rehabilitation. (Pg. 5)
2. Maintaining a caring and professional attitude; controlling your own fears; presenting a professional appearance; keeping your skills and knowledge up to date; staying fit with daily exercise and a healthy diet; maintaining a healthy lifestyle. (Pg. 9)

Case Study 1.1:
1. There is no legal duty to act in this situation because you are not at work or on duty; however, you may feel that you have a moral duty to act. (Pg. 10)
2. d (Pg. 10)
3. Traffic; spilled gasoline; untrained bystanders trying to help; hazardous materials. (Pg. 10)
4. F. (Pg. 12)

Self-Assessment:
1. a (Pg. 9)
2. b (Pg. 8)
3. c (Pg. 10)
4. d (Pg. 5)
5. b (Pg. 5)
6. a (Pg. 10)
7. b (Pg. 2)
8. d (Pg. 12)
9. b (Pg. 8)
10. c (Pg. 12)
11. d (Pg. 11)
12. d (Pg. 10)
13. c (Pg. 11)