Chapter 2

The Emergency Scene

♦ KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the four key aspects of preparing for an emergency response.

2. Identify four guidelines to follow to ensure your personal safety at an emergency scene.

3. List at least seven specific emergency situations that a first responder may encounter.

4. Describe three situations in which you would park in a roadway or block traffic at a collision scene.

5. List five guidelines to follow at a fire scene.

6. List five guidelines to follow at an emergency scene where electrical lines are down.

7. List three steps you can take to rescue a conscious person in the water without entering the water yourself.

8. List six indications that hazardous materials are present.

9. Describe special problems that may occur as a result of natural disasters.

10. Define the key terms for this chapter.
♦ OUTLINE

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♦ KEY POINTS

Emergency Response Preparation Involves
   ♦ Equipment and personnel.
   ♦ Plan of action.
   ♦ Communications.
   ♦ Training.

At the scene, evaluate
   ♦ Location.
   ♦ Problems.
   ♦ Dangers.
   ♦ Number of casualty(s).
   ♦ Behavior of casualty(s)/bystanders.
   ♦ Additional rescuers needed.

Ensure Your Safety by
   ♦ Evaluating potential dangers.
   ♦ Wearing proper gear.
   ♦ Doing what you are trained to do.
   ♦ Summoning additional resources.

Possible Dangers at an Emergency Scene
   ♦ Crime.
   ♦ Traffic.
   ♦ Fire.
   ♦ Electricity.
   ♦ Water/ice.
   ♦ Hazardous materials.
   ♦ Unstable structures/vehicles.
   ♦ Wreckage.
   ♦ Natural disasters.
   ♦ Multiple casualties.
   ♦ Suicide.
   ♦ Hostile situations.
   ♦ Hostage situations.
♦ LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Matching

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

Terms

a. Incident command system
b. Emergency move
c. Multiple casualty incident
d. Hazardous materials

Definitions

1. ______ A method used to control and direct EMS resources at the scene of an emergency
2. ______ Substances that are toxic to the body
3. ______ An emergency in which the number of casualties may overwhelm the capabilities of a local EMS system
4. ______ Transport of a casualty to safety before completing care

♦ VIDEO SEGMENTS

Mechanism of Injury

- Front Impact Collision
  - Down and Under
  - Up and Over
  - Combination
- Rollover Accident
- Side Impact Accident
- Pedestrian

Scene Safety

Patient Empathy

BSI Precautions

Authentic Emergency

- Rescuer Descent
- Fallen Climber
1. Identify six potential dangers to you, bystanders, and casualties in the illustration.

1. __________________________  
2. __________________________  
3. __________________________  
4. __________________________  
5. __________________________  
6. __________________________
2. Complete the table. Fill in the missing situation or the action you would take for the situation given.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Appropriate action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Suicide</td>
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<td>b._______</td>
<td>Do not enter structures that you suspect are unsafe. Call for trained and equipped personnel. Gather as much information as possible about the victim(s).</td>
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<td>c. Crime</td>
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<td>d. Wreckage</td>
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<td>e._______</td>
<td>Report to the person in charge. Care for victims with the most life-threatening conditions first.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. When preparing for an emergency situation, a first responder must be concerned with five key elements. They are:

1. ____________________________
2. ____________________________
3. ____________________________
4. ____________________________
5. ____________________________

4. You are at the scene of a collision between a car and a tanker truck. You might perceive clues to the presence of hazardous materials. List at least five:

1. ____________________________
2. ____________________________
3. ____________________________
4. ____________________________
5. ____________________________

5. At the site of a collision, there are three situations in which you might park in a roadway to block traffic. They are:

1. ____________________________
2. ____________________________
3. ____________________________
CASE STUDY

Read the case study and answer the questions that follow.

Case 2.1

You arrive at a scene where a truck has hit an electric utility pole. A high-voltage wire attached to the pole has broken and now is draped across the truck. Two apparently uninjured persons are still in the truck, and a crowd is gathering.

1. How far back from the scene should you move the bystanders?
   a. Half the distance between the two poles from which the broken wire had been strung
   b. The distance between the two poles from which the broken wire had been strung
   c. Twice the length of the span of the wire
   d. The distance from the break in the wire to the closest power pole

2. T F You can safely move the wire off of the truck if you wear insulated gloves and use a dry stick or a nonmetal pole.

3. In surveying the scene, you note a Department of Transportation-type placard on the rear door of the truck indicating the presence of hazardous materials. What information should you look for on the placard?
   a. The name or identifying number of the materials in the truck
   b. The amount of chemicals usually in the truck
   c. The name and telephone number of the manufacturer of the stored chemicals
   d. All the above

4. T F You should tell the occupants of the truck to get out of the truck carefully, as long as the wire is not sparking and they do not touch the wire.
SELF-ASSESSMENT

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. Which of the following guidelines will help ensure your personal safety at an emergency scene?
   a. Take time to evaluate the scene before proceeding.
   b. Wear appropriate protective gear for the situation.
   c. Do not attempt activities for which you have not received the proper training.
   d. All of the above.

2. Which of the following will give you the best chance to escape safely from a burning building?
   a. Stay upright as you run from the building.
   b. Cover your nose and mouth with a moist cloth.
   c. Stay close to the floor with a moist cloth over your mouth and nose.
   d. a and b.

3. A woman is struggling in the water at the deep end of a swimming pool. In attempting a rescue, which is the appropriate way to reach her and pull her to the side of the pool?
   a. Lie down at the side of the pool, and reach to her with your arm.
   b. Enter the water, and extend your hand or foot to her.
   c. Remove your shoes, and jump in to assist her to the side.
   d. Call for help, and wade toward the deep end to reach her.

4. How can you make sure you always have contact with more advanced medical care?
   a. Use a cellular telephone system.
   b. Have a backup communication system available.
   c. Carry both in-vehicle and portable radios.
   d. Transmit on the same frequency used by the ambulance service.

5. An emergency that may overwhelm the capabilities of the local EMS system is called
   a. A multiple casualty incident.
   b. Triage.
   c. An incident command system.
   d. Simple Triage And Rapid Treatment.
6. Why would you park in a roadway to block traffic?
   a. To stop all truck traffic.
   b. To put out flares.
   c. To identify the scene for more advanced medical personnel.
   d. To protect rescuers.

7. Which of the following could indicate the presence of hazardous materials?
   a. Unusual odors
   b. Clouds of vapor
   c. Downed wires
   d. a and b

8. Two keys to an effective plan of action for an emergency response are
   a. Advance preparation and periodic rehearsal.
   b. Specialized training and equipment.
   c. Medical communications and advanced care.
   d. Large number of responders and vehicles.

9. When approaching the scene of an automobile crash, you should
   a. Carefully direct bystanders as to how to help find the casualties.
   b. Move immediately to the casualties who appear to be most seriously injured.
   c. Size up the overall situation before taking further action.
   d. Use your vehicle to slow down or stop traffic near the scene.

10. A system used to control and direct resources at the scene of an emergency is called the
    a. Incident command system.
    b. Triage system.
    c. Multiple casualty system.
    d. Emergency control system.
11. When driving to an emergency scene, you should remember that
   a. The use of warning lights and a siren gives you authorization to exceed the speed limit by up to 44 km/h.
   b. Your liability for damages in a traffic crash is limited by Good Samaritan laws.
   c. You should not drive a private vehicle as though it were an emergency vehicle.
   d. Emergency vehicles have an absolute right of way.

12. You are summoned to the scene of an assault. You find the casualty lying on the ground with the assailant still nearby holding a knife. What should you do?
   a. Attempt to convince the person with the knife to let you care for the casualty.
   b. Identify yourself. Move slowly toward the casualty, explaining what you want to do.
   c. Call for assistance from law enforcement officers and stay back.
   d. Have a bystander call the police while you try to convince the person to drop the knife.

13. In which of the following situations would you move a casualty before providing emergency care?
   a. The casualty is lying in a supermarket aisle. A large crowd has gathered, obstructing the aisle.
   b. The casualty is on the shoulder of a busy highway, sitting in his truck. The truck's engine is running.
   c. The casualty is lying on the seat of his car, not breathing, in a closed garage. The car's engine is running.
   d. All of the above.

14. At the scene of a stabbing, you see a knife you believe was used in the incident next to the unconscious casualty. What should you do with the knife?
   a. Pick it up, using a dressing or bandage, and place it in a plastic bag to give to the police.
   b. Avoid touching or moving the knife unless it causes a safety hazard, or interferes with care.
   c. Se careful not to touch the handle as you move the knife carefully away from the casualty.
   d. Note the knife's exact position. Move it away from the casualty, and save it for the police.
Answers to Exercises
Unit 2-The Emergency Scene

Matching: (Pg. 14)
1. a
2. d
3. c
4. b

Short Answer:
1. Live electrical wires; hazardous materials; flames; shattered glass; passing traffic; fumes; unstable telephone pole; spilled container; leaking gasoline. (Pg. 19)
2. Do not enter until summoned by law enforcement personnel. Do not touch anything except what you must to give care; Unsafe structures; Do not enter the scene until summoned by law enforcement personnel. Do not touch anything except what you must to give care; Do not attempt a rescue until wreckage has been stabilized; Multiple casualties. (Pg. 24)
3. Equipment; Personnel; a plan of action; communications; training. (Pg. 15-17)
4. Signs or placards; clouds of vapour; spilled liquids or solids; unusual odours; leaking containers, bottles, or cylinders; chemical transport tanks or containers. (Pg. 21)
5. To protect an injured person; to protect any rescuers, including yourself; to warn oncoming traffic if the situation is not clearly visible. (Pg. 20)

Case Study 2.1:
1. c (Pg. 19)
2. F (Pg. 20)
3. a (Pg. 21)
4. F (Pg. 20)

Self-Assessment:
1. d (Pg. 17)
2. c (Pg. 20)
3. a (Pg. 21)
4. b (Pg. 17)
5. a (Pg. 14)
6. d (Pg. 20)
7. d (Pg. 21)
8. a (Pg. 15)
9. c (Pg. 20)
10. a. (Pg. 14)
11. c (Pg. 20)
12. c (Pg. 20)
13. c (Pg. 19)
14. b (Pg. 20)