
Lesson 8: Scene Size-Up

Scene Size-Up



You Are the Emergency Medical Responder

You are summoned to a neighbor's home after the 43-year-old mother and her two children from next door were apparently overcome by carbon monoxide from using a gas oven. The power went out earlier and has not been restored. The family members were found by a concerned neighbor. When you arrive, you see the mother and one of the children who are conscious and complaining of nausea and severe headaches. You also see a 6-year-old boy who appears to be unresponsive and not breathing.

What should you be concerned with prior to conducting an assessment and providing care?

You Are the Emergency Medical Responder

Are there other services, such as fire or police, you should summon to the scene?

Scene Safety

Safety includes both personal safety and the safety of others, including patients and bystanders

- Use the senses:
 - Look and feel for hazards
 - Listen for unusual sounds
 - Smell to detect any unusual or unexpected odor
- 360-degree assessment
 - Look in all directions



Scene Safety cont.

- Observe the scene for dangers
 - Traffic
 - Electrical wires
 - Unstable structures
 - Fuels/fluids
- Take safety measures appropriate to scene
- Continually reassess the situation
- True scene safety is a continuous process!
- Number of patients
 - Identify the number of patients at the scene
 - Call for additional help if more patients than EMR



Guidelines for Personal Safety

Personal safety is always foremost at any scene

- Take time to evaluate the scene
- Wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Do not attempt to do anything you are not trained to do
- Get the help needed by notifying additional personnel/resources
- Change gloves if dealing with multiple patients

Guidelines for Others' Safety

- Never move a patient unless there is immediate danger
- Continuously scan for possible hazards
- Use appropriate emergency moves if in immediate danger
- Be alert for potential bystander dangers

Mechanism of Injury (MOI)

- Vehicle/motorcycle collisions – energy in motion
 - Head-on crash
 - Rear-end crash
 - Side impact
 - Rotational impact
 - Rollover
- Blunt or penetrating injuries
- Falls
- Blast injuries

Activity

You are called to the scene of a motor-vehicle crash in which a driver lost control of his car. The car hit a utility pole sideways and then another parked car, eventually causing the car to land on its roof. The car was not equipped with airbags, and neither the driver nor the passenger was wearing a seat belt. The windshield on the driver's side is shattered. The passenger in the car was thrown approximately 30 feet from the car. The front hood of the car is beginning to smoke, and there is glass and liquid all over the roadway.

What are the safety issues and possible MOIs that may be involved?

Nature of Illness (NOI)

- In some situations, you may be called because a person is ill and no evidence of trauma
- Recognizing NOI helps with immediate care
- Conscious/unconscious
 - Family members/bystanders
- Scan scene for clues to problems
- Record observations

Additional Resources

- Advanced Life Support - ALS
- Air medical transport
 - Air Med/Lifeflight
- Utility department
 - Rocky Mountain Power
 - Questar
- Fire department
- Law enforcement
- Specialized resources, such as HAZMAT

You Are the Emergency Medical Responder

You have taken the proper precautions to make it safe for you to enter the scene and begin assessing and providing care for carbon monoxide poisoning.

What if the mother and children lived in a place other than a single-family home?

What additional considerations or action might there be?