

Chapter 7 Scene Size-Up

Scene Size-Up

Your safety is paramount followed by that of your crew, Patient, and bystanders. Important information can be determined from a brief survey of the scene. (MOI) emergencies are dynamic and your scene size-up should be also. Consider the need for additional resources.

Scene Safety

Always perform your own size up, no matter whom arrives on scene first. Emergency Medical Dispatch relays critical information before you arrive on scene. Look for smoke, downed wires, oncoming traffic, and other emergency personnel. Look for Hazardous materials, partially/ ejected Pts, Be cautious of bystanders and noxious odors.

Establishing the Danger Zone

A danger zone exists around every vehicle collision, the size depends on the severity of the collision.

With no apparent hazards assume a danger zone of 50 feet.

For fuel leaks consider a minimum danger zone of 100 feet.

For even small vehicle fires maintain a danger zone of at least 100 feet.

For downed wires the danger zone is the area in which you could contact a wire.

Request guidance and additional resources for a Hazardous material spill.

Crime Scenes and Acts of Violence

Never enter a violent situation to provide care.

Be extra careful if Fighting, Yelling, Weapons, Alcohol, Drugs, Unusual silence, or knowledge of a prior violent act by your patient are present on scene.

If your scene is unsafe retreat to a position of safety, call for help, and return only after your scene has been secured by law enforcement personnel.

Standard Precautions

Standard precautions (BSI) should **always** be taken.

Mechanism of Injury

The MOI is the force or forces that may have caused injury.

Based on the MOI you can predict various injury patterns. (Ex. fire = burns.)

Motor Vehicle Collision

A body in motion will remain in motion until acted on by an outside force. Collision 1 Vehicle striking and object Collision 2 Body striking the interior of the vehicle. Collision 3 Organs of Pt strike surfaces within the body.

Head on collisions usually seen in two patterns 1. Up and over, 2. Down and under pattern.

Rear-end collisions commonly result in neck injuries.

Side-impact collisions cause injuries to head, neck, chest, abdomen, pelvis, thighs and internally.

Rollover collisions are potentially the most serious due to multiple impacts and potential

ejection.

Rotational impacts often resulting in multiple impacts.

It is important to determine the original position of the driver or passenger for a more accurate MOI.

Motorcycles and ATVs can also lead to severe injury. **Falls**

Falls from three times the patient's height are usually considered severe.

Injuries will be seen at the limb of impact but also at the adjoining body structures.

Penetrating Trauma

Injury caused by an object that passes through the skin or other body tissue.

Low velocity items are those that are propelled by hand, such as knives.

Medium velocity are usually caused by handguns and shotguns.

High velocity Directly from projectile Pressure related damage -**cavitation**.

Blunt-Force Trauma

Blunt trauma doesn't break the skin but may have severe effects on internal organs and vessels.

- **index of suspicion** awareness that there may be injuries

Nature of Illness

Similar to a MOI except this is for a patient experiencing a medical emergency.

Consider gathering pertinent information from the patient, family and bystanders, and the scene.

Number of Patients and Adequacy of Resources

Can your crew effectively handle the patient(s) and scene adequately? If not request additional resources.