General HAZMAT Treatment

Purpose: This is written to provide general pre-arrival information for suspected HAZMAT incidents. **Hazardous Materials** pose a threat during every phase of their existence: production, packaging, storage and delivery. Many common hazardous materials used in industry pose a threat to emergency responders. The Hazardous Materials Medical Response Team is designed to support the HAZMAT response team as its primary mission but may treat other exposed patients as well.

In general, standard MCA treatment should be used in treating a patient exposed to hazardous materials. The protocols contained in this section are to be used by the systems hazardous materials medical response teams for situations that are amenable to treatment based on the team's training and equipment.

Contact Medical Control as soon as possible. If possible, contact should be made as soon as arriving on a scene. Be prepared to provide the following information:

Name and form of the chemical(s)
involved Amount of chemical(s)
Routes of exposure
Number of victims

Any updated information should be relayed to Medical Control as soon as possible.

<u>Pre-Medical Control</u>
PARAMEDIC

1. Approach the scene with caution only after a safety perimeter has been established.
2. Maintain a safe distance.
3. Approach upwind, uphill and upstream, as appropriate.
4. Be aware of potential contaminated terrain and contaminated objects.
5. Determine the HAZMAT involved in the incident, medics should not enter a hot zone.
6. The patient's clinical presentation may offer clues about the type of HAZMAT substance.
7. Victims and potential victims must be evacuated rapidly from the contaminated area. Major decontamination should be conducted by the HAZMAT team and decontaminated as quickly as possible. Additional decontamination may be necessary as described under protocol.
8. Assume that all patients are potentially contaminated and use appropriate PPE to prevent the transmission of contaminants.
9. Start an IV NS KVO when practical.
10. Monitor for shock and pulmonary edema, treat as indicated.
11. Seizure precautions should be maintained. Treat according to **Seizures Protocol** as indicated.
12. If in respiratory distress or arrest, follow the **Airway Management Protoco**l.
13. Follow the appropriate HAZMAT treatment protocol