Environmental Emergencies

May 2021 Mercyhealth Prehospital and Emergency Services Center



COVID-19 Update

- US Vaccines with EUA
 - Moderna
 - Pfizer
 - Johnson and Johnson
- Positivity Spike
- Variants
 - Monoclonal Antibodies
- PPE Update



Reminder

- The Medical Control Line is Recorded!
- Do not say anything you would not like replayed in court!
- This can be an asset or liability!



Objectives

- Describe methods of heat transfer
- •List physiological responses of the human body to hypothermia
- State treatment modalities for mild, moderate, and severe hypothermia
- •List the signs, symptoms, and treatment for heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke
- Discuss treatment for venomous snakes in our area
- Discuss electrical injuries and their treatments
- Discuss common envenomations



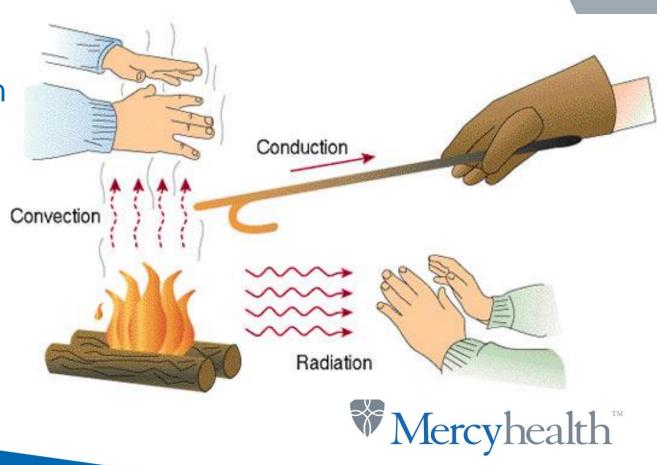
Temperature Regulation

- Balance between heat production and heat loss
- Heat Production
 - Metabolism
 - Work Done on Environment
- Heat transfer/loss
 - Radiation
 - Convection
 - Conduction
 - Evaporation



Methods of Heat Transfer

- Radiation
- Conduction
- Convection
- Evaporation



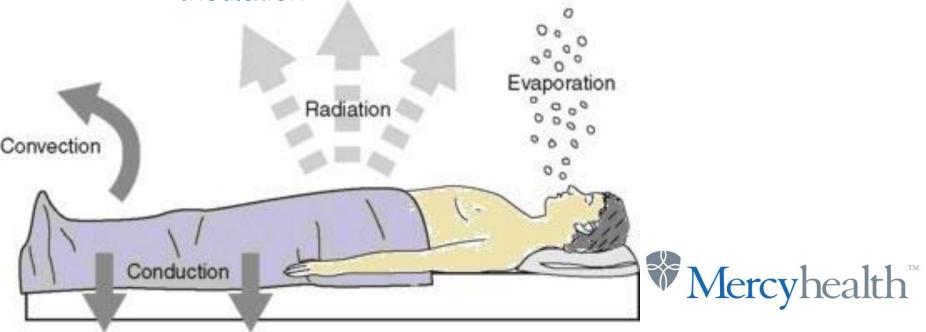
Radiation

- Heat transfer through photons in air through electromagnetic waves
 - Sun Light
 - Accounts for up to 60% of heat loss in cool environments
 - Direct heat loss from skin emitting heat
 - Can results in heat gain in if the ambient temperature is higher than body temperature
 - Direct contact is <u>not</u> needed



Conduction

- Direct transfer of heat from the body in contact with the skin
 - Heat loss by conduction into water
 - 32X >than air
 - Damp clothing Hot/Cold
 - Insulation



Convection

• Transfer of heat by water or air

• Air Velocity







Wind Chill Chart 🛴



	Temperature (°F)																		
	Calm	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
	5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	-63
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	15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71	-77
	20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74	-81
(hc	25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78	-84
(hqm) l	30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80	-87
Wind	35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82	-89
W	40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91
	45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86	-93
	50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95
	55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89	-97
	60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91	-98
Frostbite Times 30 minutes 10 minutes 5 minutes																			
Wind Chill (°F) = 35.74 + 0.6215T - 35.75(V ^{0.16}) + 0.4275T(V ^{0.16})																			
Where, T= Air Temperature (°F) V= Wind Speed (mph) Effective 11/01/01																			
														N	ler	cył	nea	lth	ТМ

Evaporation

- Loss of heat when liquid water turns to gas
- Primary method of heat loss
 - •25% in a cool environment
 - Approaches 100% in high heat
 - Significantly less effective in high humidity





Respiration

- Combines evaporation and convection
 - Evaporation-moisture in lungs, mucous membranes
 - Convection- displacement of warm air in lungs to external environment
 - Heated Humidified 02 as method of warming





Humidified Oxygen

HFNC-High Flow Nasal Cannual Therapy System

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OXYGEN

OXYGEN

BEACONMEDES

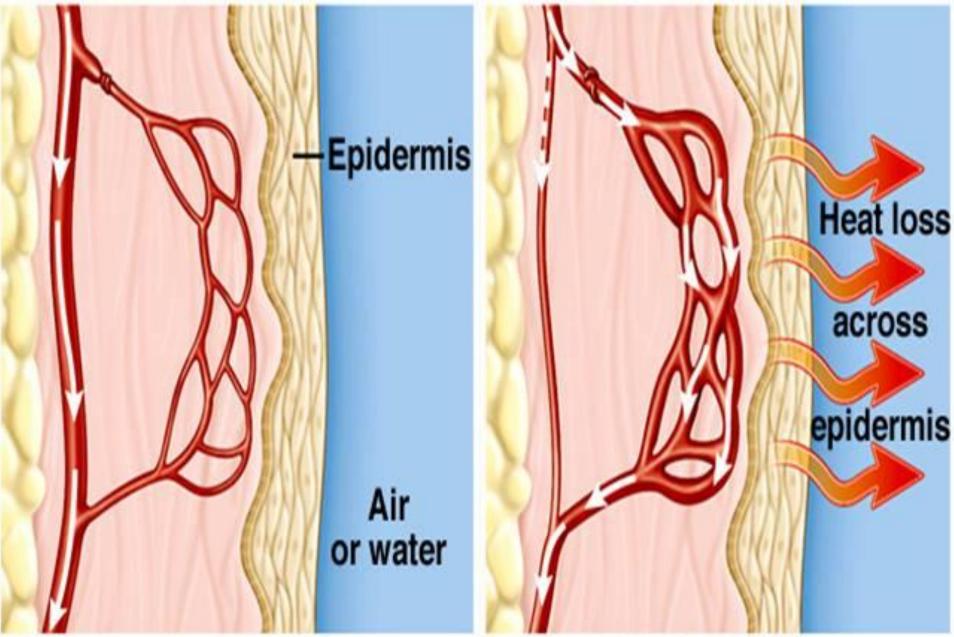
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Temperature Regulation Physiology

- In hot conditions
 - Sweat (Hypotonic) Evaporation
 - Marathon Hyponatremia
 - Excessive Water Intake
 - Vasodilation
 - Skin Parameters
 - Hot
 - Flushed
 - Skin is major heat loss organ





Vasoconstriction

Vasodilation

Temperature Regulation Physiology

In cold conditions

- Decreased sweat production
- Vasoconstriction
 - "Life over limb physiology"
- Piloerection (convection)
 - Withdrawal Symptoms
- Shivering (last line)





Hypothermia Risk Factors

- •Age (Young/Old)
- Social Factors
- Preexisting disease
 - Cardiovascular Disease
 - Endocrine-diabetes, hypothyroidism, adrenal
 - Mental illness
- Medications- BB, Clonidine, Sedatives
- Alcohol
 - Sedation
 - Delay Shivering
 - Vasodilation



Hypothermia and Trauma

- Assess and treat traumatic injuries
- Properties of "Normal" Saline
 - Acidotic pH 5.5
 - No ability to carry hemoglobin
 - Dilutes Clotting factors
 - Not body temperature
 - Leads to hypothermia



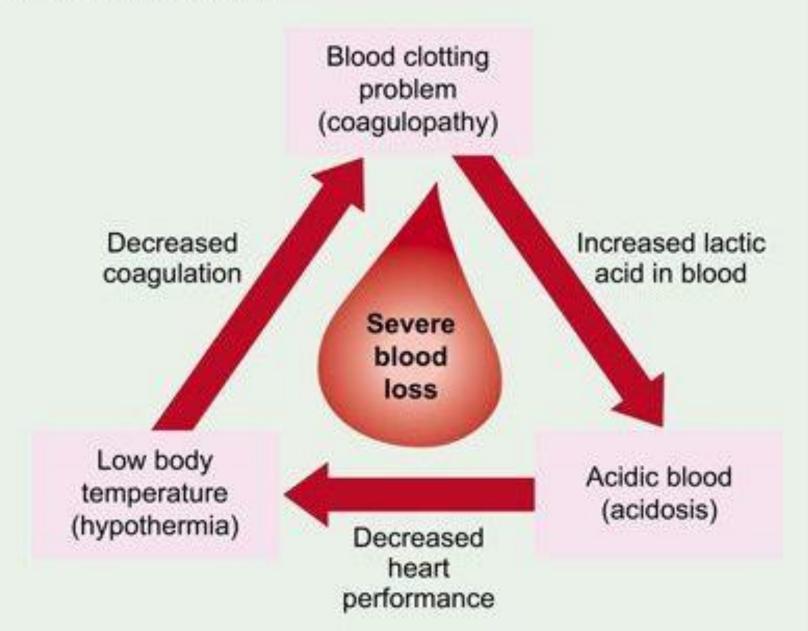


Hypothermia and Trauma

- When blood leaves the body heat leaves with it
 - Hemorrhage control
 - Heat like blood very difficult to replace once gone
- Hypothermia Coagulopathy
 - Impairment of coagulation cascade
 - Decreased platelet function
 - Decreased clot formation



Trauma Triad of Death



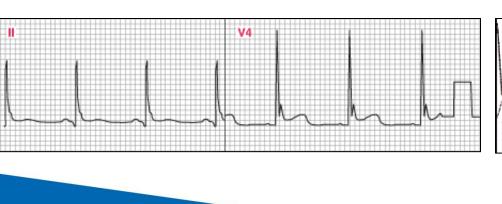
Mild Hypothermia

- •90-95 Degrees (Core Temperature)
 - Considerations
- Clinical Features
 - Shivering
 - Impaired Judgment
 - +/-tachycardia and hypertension
 - Vasoconstriction
 - Ataxia



Moderate Hypothermia

- •82-89 degrees
 - Clinical Features
 - Worsening Mental Status
 - Loss of Shivering
 - ECG Changes (J Wave), Susceptible to V-Fib, A-fib, bradycardia

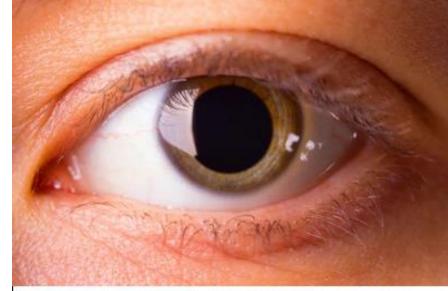






Severe Hypothermia

- < 82 Degrees
- Clinical Features
 - Bradycardia
 - Hypotension
 - Pulmonary Edema
 - Unresponsive



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Dilated Pupils (not a marker of death)



Hypothermia

- General Considerations
 - Rough handling can precipitate arrhythmias
 - When checking pulses, check for up to 60 seconds
 - Vasoconstriction considerations
 - Remove from environment
 - Remove wet clothing and dry



Cardiac Arrest and Hypothermia

"Not dead until warm and dead"

- > The patient has an unwitnessed cardiac arrest, is in asystole, and no bystander CPR has been started. (This does not apply if exposure hypothermia, drowning, or drug overdose plays a role in the arrest).
 - Do not initiate CPR if Pulse Present
 - •When to terminate?
 - Do not cease resuscitation in field***
 - Patient is Warm >89 Degrees
 - Chest Wall is frozen solid
 - Ice obstructs airway
 - Typical signs of death may be unreliable



Wrongful Death Suite

- "Family of Minnesota teen who froze to death sues responders'
- 19 y/o M Found outside after being in 0 degree for approx 5 hours
 - No resuscitation undertaken at scene
 - Each responder individually sued for not initiating resuscitative efforts
 - https://www.ems1.com/airwaymanagement/articles/family-of-minn-teen-whofroze-to-death-sues-respondershnKXMWyGwjjPXnV5/



Hypothermic Cardiac Arrest

- •Which came first the hypothermia or the arrest?
- Rate at which cooling occurred?
- Hypothermia is neuroprotective
 - Preformed intentionally post-ROSC
- Survival after 6.5 hours of CPR with active internal rewarming has been reported (Lexow 1991)
- Survival from Core temp of 48 degrees has been reported (Vassallo 2015)

Aercy

Consider transport to appropriate facility

Defibrillation and Hypothermia

- Defibrillate once
 - Controversial
- Subsequent defibrillations when temp >86 degrees
- Avoid pacing until >86 degrees



Hypothermia ACLS

• Bradycardia

- Not vagal mediated
- Unresponsive to atropine, pacing, epi
- •IV/IO Access
 - Warmed Saline
- Airway
 - Heated Humidified Oxygen
 - `Avoid Succinylcholine if Hyperkalemia
- Medications
 - Administer one round of ACLS medications
 - Toxic levels of resuscitation medications may pool in peripheral circulation
 - Do not repeat until >86 Degrees



Hypothermia and Submersion

- Drowning is the 5th leading cause of accidental death in US
- Factors that impact of survival with prolonged submersion
 - Water Temperature*
 - Duration of Submersion*
 - Age of Victim
- Did drowning or cooling come first?



Hypothermia and Submersion

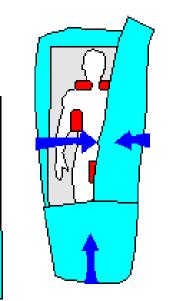
- Resuscitation 2011, 82:7
- Water temp > $42^{\circ}F$
 - Survival/resuscitation unlikely if submersion
 >30 minutes
- •Water temp <42°F
 - Survival/resuscitation unlikely if submersion
 >90 minutes



Rewarming

- IF can tolerate PO give glucose to support thermogenesis
- Passive- Mild
 - Removal of wet clothing
 - Blankets
 - Warm Ambulance
 Apply heat
- Active- Moderate/Severe
 - Warmed IV fluid
 - Hot Packs
 - Heated Humidified Oxygen







Warming Crystalloid

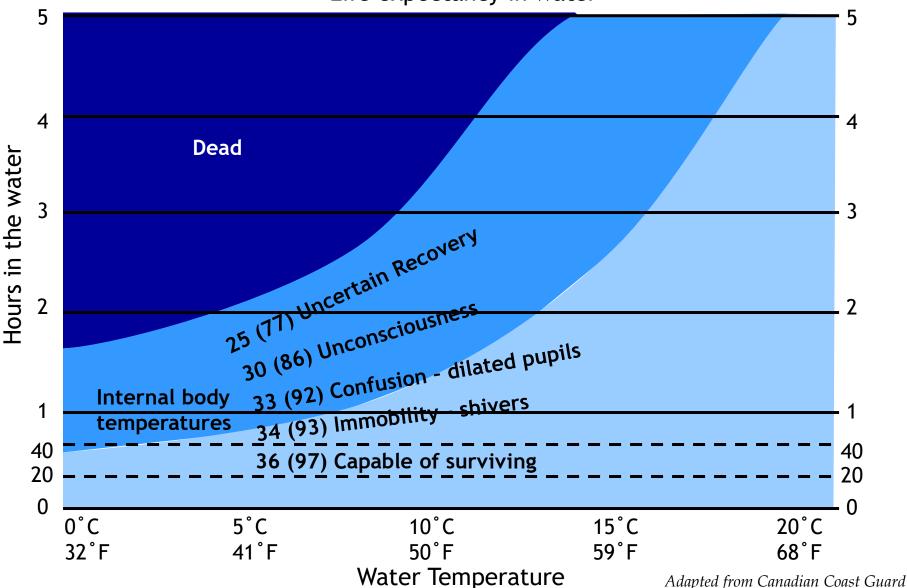
- Avoid LR, unable to be metabolized in hypothermic state
- Non-Dextrose non-Medication can be warmed in microwave (Annals of Emergency Medicine 1985)
 - •2 Minutes
 - Ensure evenly mixed
 - Goal temp <104 degrees
- Hot Packs
- Dash
- Inside Coat
- Fluid Warmers





Survival times as a function of water temperature (assuming no cold protection)

Life expectancy in water









	Temperature (°F)																		
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Local Cold Injuries

- Frost nip- transient numbress and tingling which occurs with rewarming, contrast to frost bite as no tissue destruction occurs
- Frost bite
 - Pathophysiology
 - Increased Blood Viscosity
 - Ice Crystal Formation
 - Ischemia
 - Symptoms
 - Based on degree/depth of tissue destruction (similar to burns)

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- Most Common Symptoms is numbress
- Nose/Ears/Fingers/Toes





Frost Bite

"Freeze in January amputate in June"





Local Cold Injuries Management

- Remove wet and constrictive clothing
- Prevent further cold injury
- Rewarming in the field should only be undertaken if risk for re-cooling/freezing is minimal
- •Rewarming can be painful prepare to treat pain
- Do not rub tissues/air dry
- •Rewarm with warm water no hotter than 102.2
- Place dressings between toes/fingers



Heat related illness

Risk Factors

- Extremes of Age
 - Limited Mobility
- Alcohol- inhibition of AHD increased urination
- Medications
 - Antipsychotics- CNS heat regulation centers
 - Anticholinergic- diphenhydramine
 - Sympathomimetics- caffeine, cocaine, PCP, Meth
 - Cardiac Medications- BB, CCB
 - Cardiac output increases around 3L/min for each 1 degree C above core temp

Mercv

Requires increased in HR peripheral vasodilatation

Toxidromes-Anticholinergic

Examples: Atropine, Scopolimine, H1 Blockers (Diphenhydramine), TCAs, Jimsonweed, some mushrooms, Norflex

Mental Status- Delirious

Temperature- Hot

Eyes- Dilated

Lungs- Clear

HR/BP-Increased

Bowel/Bladder- Urinary Retention

Skin- Dry





Toxidromes- Anticholinergic Jimsonweed





Toxidromes-Anticholinergic

Dry as a Bone Hot as a Hades Red as a Beet Blind as a Bat Mad as a Hatter

Treatment

- Supportive
 - IVFs
 - Versed for agitation





Heat Illness

- Working in hot environments
 - High osmolality fluids inhibits gastric emptying; osmolality of less than 200 mOsm/L is optimal
 - Gatorade=360mOsm/L-dilute with water
 - 0.5 to1 quart/hour water
- Fire ground rehab considerations



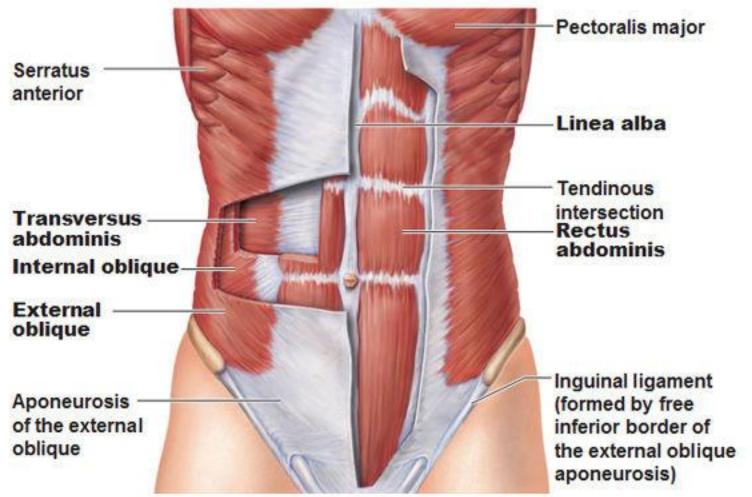


Heat Cramps

- •99-101.3 F
- Large Muscle Groups Affected- abdomen, extremities
- Typically Salt Depletion/Muscle Fatigue/Dehydration
- Treatment: Commercial Electrolyte replacement therapies/sports drink
 - Salt tablets are gastric irritants, delay gastric emptying not recommended



Abdominal Muscles





Heat Exhaustion-Spectrum

- Volume depletion + Heat Stress
- Symptoms Weakness, headache, Nausea, Syncope
- •Signs: tachycardia, +/-**sweating**, tachypnea, +/- ALOC (anxiety, lethargy, irritability)
 - •99-104 F
 - Skin findings unreliable
 - Absence of severe CNS abnormalities



Heat Stroke Spectrum

- Failure of Compensatory Mechanisms
- Heat stress and CNS effects
 - Coma, Seizures, Delirium
- •Core temp > 104 F
- Skin findings unreliable
- Hypotension
- Renal/Liver Dysfunction

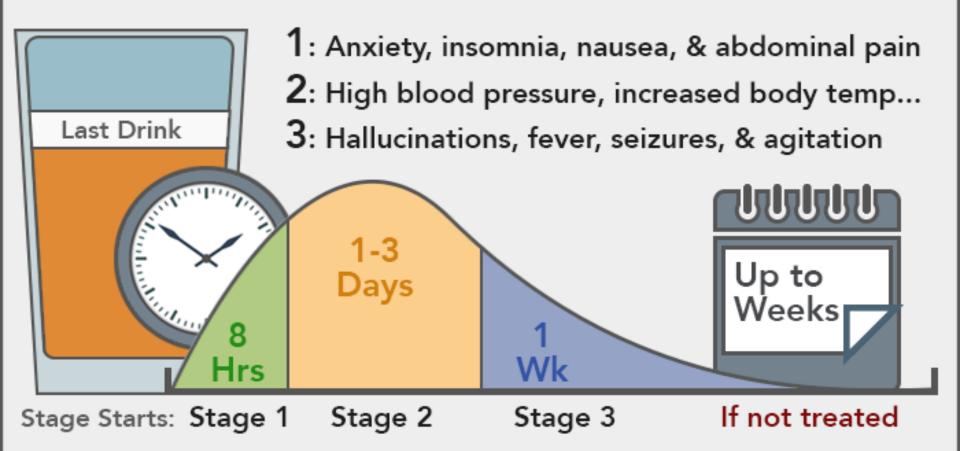


High Temperature Differential Diagnosis

- Delirium Tremens
- Drugs
 - PCP, Cocaine, Salicylate (Aspirin), Sympathomimetic, Anticholinergic, neuroleptics, serotonic syndrome
- Infection
- Metabolic
 - Thyroid Storm, DKA
- •CNS
 - Seizures, Cerebral Hemorrhage



Alcohol Withdrawal Timeline





Treatment Goals

- High Mortality Rate 10-63%
- •End Heat Challenge- Remove from environment
- Increase Health loss from
 - Conduction
 - Convection
 - Radiation
 - Evaporation
- Support ABCDs



Conduction/Convection-Heat Illness

- •Conduction Direct transfer of heat from the body in contact with the skin
- Convection Transfer of heat by water or air
- Treatment
 - Remove Excessive Clothing
 - Air conditioning
 - Protect patient from hot surfaces (i.e asphalt)
 - Ice to groin, arm pits, hands, feet
 - Fans/Air movement
 - Cover patient with cool/wet sheet (be aware of insulation)
 - Fluids IV/PO



Radiation-Heat Illness

- Heat transfer through photons in air through electromagnetic waves
- Remove patient from sun light
 - Shade





Evaporation Heat Illness

Loss of heat when liquid water turns to gas



Heat Illness Treatment

abcD

Hypoglycemia frequent finding

Avoid Over cooling

- Shivering = Heat Production
- Do not delay treatment, start treatment on scene



Snake Bites

- Venomous Snakes are rare in our response areas
- Viperade Family
 - Eastern Massasaguga Rattle Snake
 - Timber Rattle Snake
 - Venomous
 - Protelytic
 - Tissue Necrosis
 - Hemolysis
 - DIC
 - Local Necrosis
 - Assume "Wet Bite" effects can be delayed

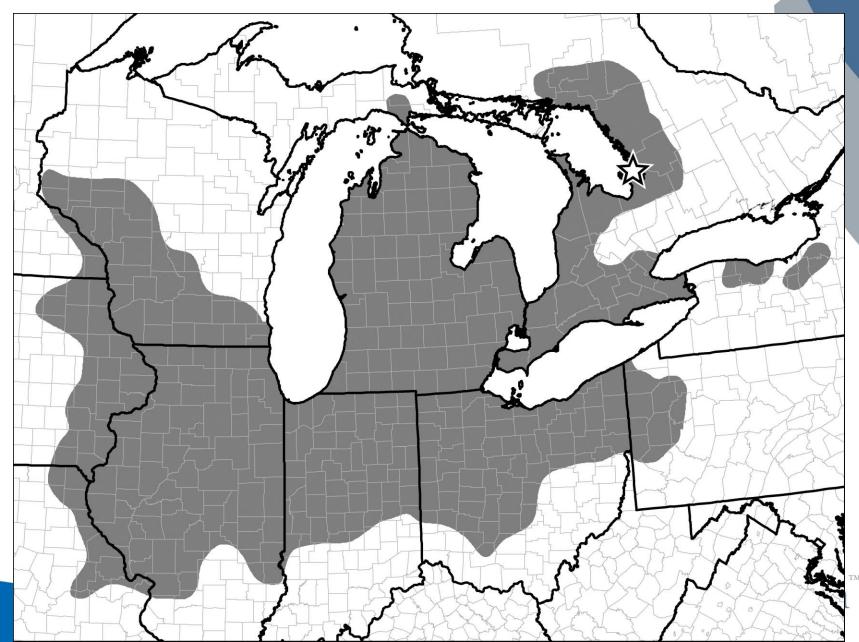
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Eastern Massasaguga Rattle Snake

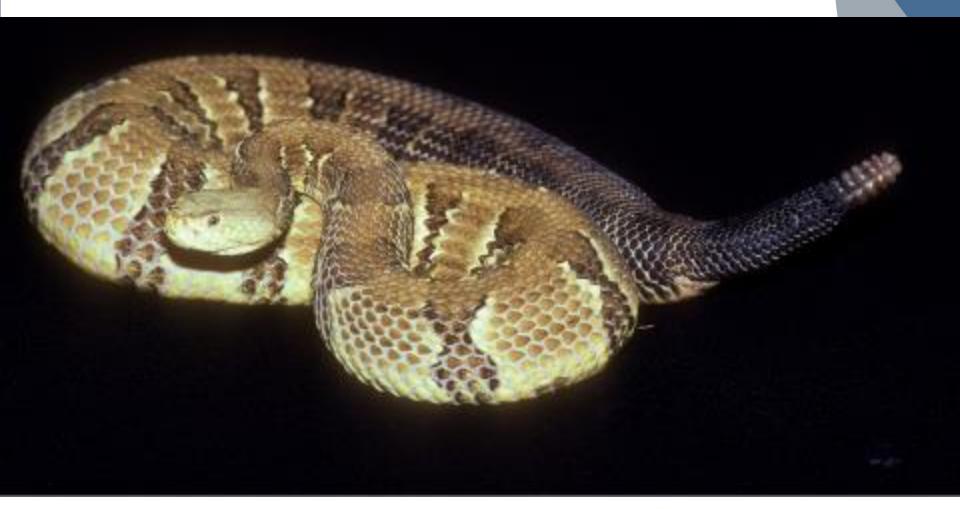




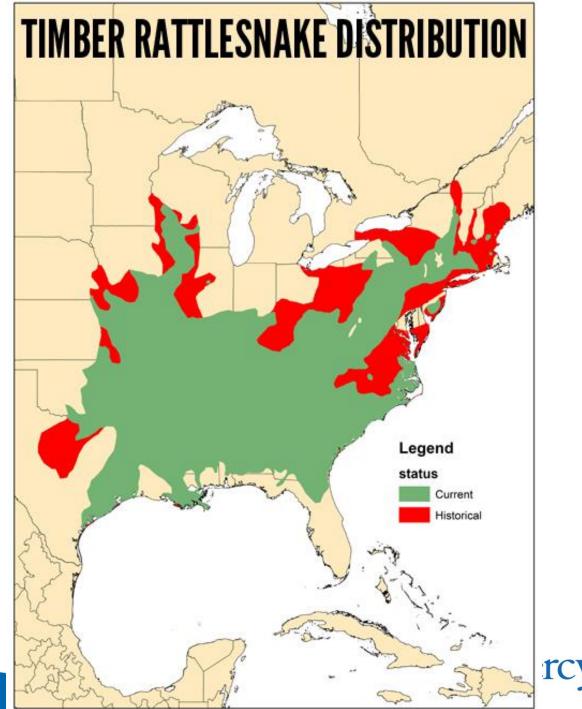
Eastern Massasaguga Rattle Snake



Timber Rattle Snake







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Snake Bite Treatment

- Don't attempt to capture kill snake unless trained
 - Pictures/Description adequate
 - Dead snakes can still envenomate
- Don't incise/use suction
- Don't apply TQ
- Do minimize activity
- Do mark leading edge of redness with time
- Do treat pain (IV not on same limb)
- Do remove jewelry, tight fitting clothing
- Do contact poison control (Antivenom locations)



Electrical Injuries

Basics

- Amperage- Measure of Electric Current-amount of energy that flows through an object
 - TASER 2.1-3.6 Milliamps
 - Incandescent Light Bulb 4 amps
- Alternating Current (AC)
 - Electrical Outlet
 - Typically More Dangerous
 - Muscle Tetany
 - Arrhythmias
- Direct Current (DC)
 - Batteries
 - Single Muscle spasm- possibly thrown from the current



Electrical Injuries

- Voltage- Difference in electrical potential between two points
 - TASER 50,000 Volts
 - Static electricity on a door knob 35,000-100,000 Volts
 - Home Voltage 110 (Known Fatalities)
 - Phone Line 24V (No recorded fatalities)
 - Low Voltage <1000 V
 - $\cdot \frac{1}{2}$ Injuries and deaths
 - 1/2 of all deaths have no burns (Arrythmias)
 - High Voltage >1000 V

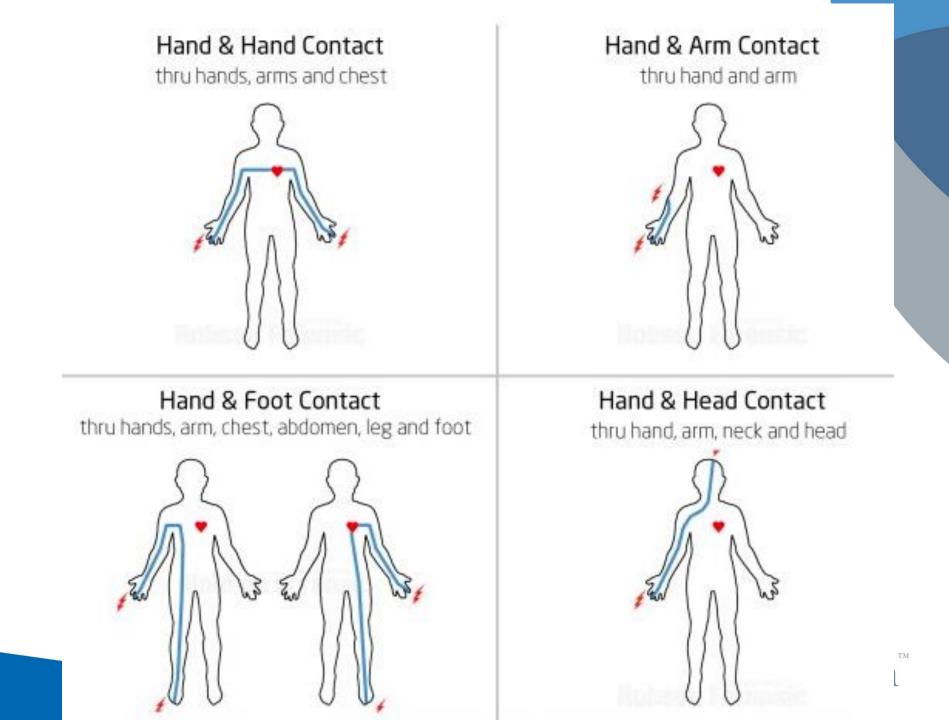


Electrical Injuries

- Joules-Unit of Work- one Joule is the work needed to move one amp (current) through one ohm of resistance
 - TASER 0.36-1.76 Joules per pulse
 - Safety threshold for inducing V-Tach 15-42
 Joules

mmmmmm

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Lightning

- DC (2 Million to 200million Volts)
- Strike can occur 10 miles ahead of storm
- May travel though pipes, wires, etc
- Fixed Dilated Pupils= transient autonomic disturbances
- Trauma/Thermal Injuries
- Paralysis 50% of victims
- Reverse Triage
 - Cardiac/Respiratory arrest
 - Total Myocardial depolarization= asystole
 - Treat those with no signs of life first Merce





TASER Basics

- •Thomas A. Swift's Electronic Rifle (1911) TASER
 - High Voltage But Low Amperage
 - Fires 2 Probes
- 25-55% of TASER deaths are estimated to be from Excited Delirium



TASER

• High Voltage Low Amps = Intense Muscle Contractions

- Stress fractures
- Muscle/tendon tears
- Injuries from fall
- Burns from arcing
- Penetration injuries





TASER Barb Removal

- Scene Safety
 - •BSI
 - LEO on scene
- Barb Removal
 - Brisk Pull
 - Stop for significance resistance
 - Avoid removal if in sensitive area or deeply imbedded (eyes, groin, face etc)

Mercul

- Leave in place
- Cut wires
- Cleanse and apply bandage, Tetanus?

•Be aware of and assess for other injuries

Bee Stings

•Hymenoptera

- Bees, Wasps, Fire Ants
- Signs/Symptoms
 - Local Reaction
 - Anaphylaxis
 - Identify severity

Treatment

- Remove Stinger
- Local Reaction
- Anaphylaxis



Anaphylaxis Signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis

Swelling of the conjunctiva

Runny nose

Swelling of lips, tongue and/or throat

Heart and vasculature

- fast or slow heart rate
- low blood pressure

Skin -

- hives
- itchiness
- flushing

Pelvic pain

- Central nervous system
- lightheadedness
- loss of consciousness
- confusion
- headache
- anxiety

Respiratory

- shortness of breath
- wheezes or stridor
- hoarseness
- pain with swallowing
- cough
 - Ga strointe stinal
 - crampy abdominal pain
 - diarrhea.
 - vomiting

Loss of

bladder control Mercyhealth

Case 5 ALS/BLS

Called to a 11 y/o female with shortness of breath

Mothers states that the child has hx of allergy to bee stings, was just stung, no treatment PTA HR 120, BP 78/40, SPo2 90% on Room Air RR 28

Diffuse hives, wheezing in all fields, pt. c/o nausea, some lip swelling and mother states that the child sounds "hoarse"

Pt weights 77lbs (35kg)



Pediatric Vital Signs?

• Lowest 5th Percentile Systolic Blood Pressure

Normal Respiratory Rates

Rate

30-53

22-37

20-28

18-25

12-20

ths/min)

chooler

fineces

ol-aged child

•70mmhg + (2 x Age in years) =

PALS

Vital Signs in Children

Normal Heart Rates* (beats/min)			
Age Neonate Infant Toddler Preschooler	Awake Rate 100-205 100-180 98-140 80-120	Sleeping Rate 90-160 90-160 80-120 65-100	Age Infant Toddi Presc Schoo
School-aged child Adolescent	75-118 60-100	58-90 50-90	Adole

Normal Blood Pressures

Age	Systolic	Diastolic	Mean Arterial
	Pressure	Pressure	Pressure
	(mm Hg)!	(mm Hg) ¹	(mm Hg) ^a
Birth (12 h, <1000 g)	39-59	16-36	28-42 ⁸
Birth (12 h, 3 kg)	60-76	31-45	48-57
Neonate (96 h)	67-84	35-53	45-60
Infant (1-12 mo)	72-104	37-56	50-62
Toddler (1-2 y)	86-106	42-63	49-62
Preschooler (3-5 y)	89-112	46-72	58-69
School-aged child (6-7 y)	97-115	57-76	66-72
Preadolescent (10-12 y)	102-120	61-80	71-79
Adolescent (12-15 y)	110-131	64-83	73-84





Case 5 BLS/ALS

- Classify severity based on below
- If Problem with A, B, C give Epi!

FOOTNOTES:

[1] Severity of Allergy/Anaphylaxis

- <u>Mild Allergic reaction</u>: localized or generalized Urticaria, without swelling of oral or pharyngeal structures, difficulty breathing, hypotension or ALOC
- <u>Moderate Allergic Reaction</u>: oral or pharyngeal swelling is present, mild to moderate difficulty breathing and wheezing are present
- <u>Severe Allergic Reaction (Anaphylaxis)</u>: moderate to severe difficulty breathing is present, hypotension is present and ALOC may occur



BLS/ALS Treatment

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER

- If altered level of consciousness or no radial pulse, position patient supine with legs raised
- EPI-Pen(>66lbs/30kg) IM (0.3mg in 0.3ml) or EPI-Pen Jr(<66lbs/30kg) IM (0.15mg in 0.3ml) to lateral mid-thigh for moderate or severe reactions). Hold in place for 10 seconds and massage area for 10 seconds after injection.
- Oxygen 10-15 LPM by non-rebreather mask
- Alternative medical director approved epinephrine auto injectors may also be used.
- Assist with patient-prescribed medications
 - Albuterol Sulfate MDI 2 Puffs
- Nebulizer Therapy: If wheezing
 - Albuterol Sulfate Unit Dose (2.5 mg in 3 ml) administer per hand held nebulizer or mask; May repeat X 2 additional doses

EMT

- Administer Nebulizer Therapy: Albuterol Sulfate 2.5mg in 3 ml with Ipratropium Bromide (Atrovent) 0.5mg in 2 ml administer per hand held nebulizer, mask or in-line nebulizer; May repeat albuterol X 2 additional doses
 ** If patient is under 3 years of age, do not use Ipratropium Bromide (Atrovent), use only Albuterol via HHN
- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) 50 mg PO if greater than 50kg(peds dose liquid or chewable 1mg/kg max 50mg) for mild, moderate, or severe reactions
- EPI-Pen(>66lbs/30kg) IM (0.3mg in 0.3ml) or EPI-Pen Jr(<66lbs/30kg) IM (0.15mg in 0.3ml) to lateral mid-thigh for moderate or severe reactions). Hold in place for 10 seconds and massage area for 10 seconds after injection.
- Alternative medical director approved epinephrine auto injectors may also be used.
- Epi Safe syringe system may only be used by departments trained and authorized by medical director.



ALS Treatment

PARAMEDIC

- Initiate IV/IO 0.9% NS @ KVO
- If the patient is Hypotensive, run wide open for 500ml after verifying lung sounds not wet
- If loss of consciousness or loss of gag reflex occurs, consider non-visualized airway or endotracheal intubation See Respiratory Distress Guideline
- Epinephrine 1:1,000 0.3 mg (0.3ml) (peds 0.01mg/kg) IM for moderate to severe reactions. Repeat every 10 15 minutes X3 if patient is not improving, or as ordered per Medical Control
- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) 50 mg IM/IV/IO (peds 1mg/kg) for mild, moderate or severe reactions
- Glucagon 1 mg IV/IO/IM if the patient is taking Beta Blockers and is not responding to Epinephrine, repeat every 10 minutes, until you run out of glucagon
- Methylprednisolone (Solu-Medrol) 125 mg IV/IO (peds 2mg/kg) for moderate to severe reactions
- Push Dose 1:100,000 Epinephrine per section 5.42

What would your initial fluid bolus be?

What would your diphenhydramine IV/IM dose be?

• What volume would you draw up?

What would you solumedrol dose be?

What volume would you draw up?

