

- A. [Adult Trauma Alert Criteria](#)
 - [Adult Criteria Footnotes](#)
- B. [Pediatric Trauma Alert Criteria](#)
 - [Pediatric Criteria Footnotes](#)
- C. [Paramedic Judgment](#)

A. [Adult Trauma Alert Criteria](#) [Appendix 3](#)

The following criteria will be applied to those injured persons with anatomical and physiological characteristics of a person **sixteen (16)** years of age or older. A Trauma Alert patient will be transported to the nearest State Approved Trauma Center (SATC).

1. **Patients meeting any one (1) of the following criteria will be transported to a Trauma Center: (RED Criteria)**

Airway

- Active airway assistance¹ or need for respiratory support beyond supplemental O₂^{*}.
- Respiratory rate is less than 10 breaths per minute **OR** greater than 29 breaths per minute.
- Oxygen saturation less than 90% room air^{*}

Motor Response/Neuro

- Unable to follow commands or BMR less than 6^{*}
- Altered mental status or suspected spinal cord injury, loss of sensation or paralysis^{*}
- GCS less than 15 in patients with head trauma taking anticoagulants (not including Aspirin) ^{*}

Circulation

- No Radial Pulse with sustained HR greater than 110/min **AND/OR** SBP of less than 90

Fracture

- Skull deformity, suspected skull fracture, severe facial fracture/injury^{*}
- Fracture of 2 or more long bones (humerus, radius/ulna, femur, tibia/fibula) ^{*}
- Open long bone fracture, severe angulated fracture, multiple fractures/multiple dislocations^{*}
- Suspected pelvic fractures^{*}
- Chest wall instability or deformed chest (flail chest) ^{*}

Cutaneous

- Any penetrating injury to the head, neck, torso, or proximal extremities^{2*}
- GSW to the extremities at or above the wrist or ankle^{*}
- Active bleeding requiring a tourniquet or wound packing with continuous pressure^{*}

- Amputation proximal to the wrist/ankle: Crushed, degloved, mangled, or pulseless extremity*

- Flap avulsion greater than 5 inches or major soft tissue loss*

- 2nd or 3rd degree burns 10% or greater of TBSA*

- 2nd or 3rd degree circumferential burns, burns to hands, feet, perinium, or groin*

Mechanism of Injury

- Partial or complete ejection from enclosed motor vehicle*

- Electrocution or lightning injury with loss of consciousness or visible signs of injury*

- Patients within 24 hours post-surgery exhibiting signs of internal bleeding, sustained HR greater than 110/min **AND/OR** SPB less than 90 (includes BBL, liposuction, thoracic surgeries, etc.)

- Pregnancy 20 weeks or greater with abdominal pain after blunt trauma

2. Patients meeting any two (2) or more of the following criteria will be transported to a Trauma Center: (BLUE Criteria)**Age**

- 55 years old or older

Medications

- Anticoagulant use associated with significant head trauma (not including Aspirin) *

Motor Response/Neuro

- Head injury with loss of consciousness; amnesia*

Circulation

- Sustained HR of greater than 110/min

Fracture

- Single long bone fracture sustained in MVC or from a fall greater than 10 feet*

Cutaneous

- Burns in conjunction with trauma*

Mechanism of Injury

- Rider separated from open cab vehicle, motorcycle, golf cart, watercraft, horse, etc.*

- Auto vs pedestrian/bicyclist thrown, run over, or with significant impact*

- Fall from a height of greater than 10 feet

- Bruising to the neck, chest, and abdomen post MVC in the pattern of the seat belt (Seat Belt Sign) *

- Perineal Hydrostatic Jetstream from jet-powered watercraft⁴*

[Top](#)

High Risk Auto Crash:

1. Significant intrusion (including roof) - 12 inches on occupant side or 18 inches any other site: need for extrication for entrapped patient: steering wheel deformity*
2. Death in same passenger compartment*
3. Vehicle telemetry data consistent with significant impact^{5*}

Adult Criteria Footnotes

¹ Airway assistance includes manual jaw thrust, continuous suctioning, or use of other adjuncts to assist ventilatory efforts.

² This excludes superficial wounds where the depth of the wound can be determined. Proximal extremities are considered at or above the elbow or knee.

³ If a patient does not meet either 1 Red or 2 Blue criteria during the assessment, the paramedic can call a trauma alert, if in his/her judgment, the patient's condition OR mechanism of injury warrants such action.

⁴ Perineal Hydrostatic Jetstream Injury is caused by the Jetstream from a watercraft while a person is in the water, not from the ejection from the watercraft. Trauma related to this injury is associated with abdominal pain **AND/OR** vaginal/rectal bleeding.

⁵ Vehicle Telemetry Data when available can be relayed to dispatch; the data can assist in predicting potential serious injuries.

***Any of the above criteria that has an (*) represents it is the same for both Adult and Pediatrics**

[Top](#)

B. Pediatric Trauma Alert Criteria [Appendix 4](#)

The following criteria will be applied to those injured persons with anatomical and physiological characteristics of a person **fifteen (15)** years of age or younger. A Trauma Alert patient will be transported to the nearest State Approved Pediatric Center (SAPTC).

1. Patients meeting anyone (1) of the following criteria will be transported to a Trauma Center: (Red Criteria)

Airway

- Active airway assistance¹ or need for respiratory support beyond supplemental O₂.*
- Respiratory rate: Age 0-1: less than 20 breaths per min; Age 1-15: less than 10 breaths per min.
- Oxygen saturation less than 90% room air*

Motor Response/Neuro

- Unable to follow commands or BMR less than 6*
- Altered mental status or suspected spinal cord injury, loss of sensation or paralysis*
- GCS less than 15 in patients with head trauma taking anticoagulants (not including Aspirin) *

Circulation

- Faint or non-palpable carotid or femoral pulse
- Age 0-9:** SBP less than 70; **Age 10-15:** SBP less than 90

Fracture

- Skull deformity, suspected skull fracture, severe facial fracture/injury*
- Fracture of 2 or more long bones (humerus, radius/ulna, femur, tibia/fibula) *
- Open long bone fracture, severe angulated fracture, multiple fractures/multiple dislocations*
- Suspected pelvic fractures*
- Chest wall instability or deformed chest (flail chest) *

Cutaneous

- Any penetrating injury to the head, neck, torso, or proximal extremities²*
- GSW to the extremities at or above the wrist or ankle*
- Active bleeding requiring a tourniquet or wound packing with continuous pressure*
- Amputation proximal to the wrist/ankle: Crushed, degloved, mangled, or pulseless extremity*
- Flap avulsion greater than 5 inches or major soft tissue loss*
- 2nd or 3rd degree burns 10% or greater of TBSA*
- 2nd or 3rd degree circumferential burns, burns to hands, feet, perinium, or groin*

[Top](#)

Mechanism of Injury

- Partial or complete ejection from enclosed motor vehicle*
- Electrocution or lightning injury with loss of consciousness or visible signs of injury*

2. Patients meeting any two (2) or more of the following criteria will be transported to a Trauma Center: (Blue Criteria)**Age/Weight**

- Age: 5 or younger Weight: 20 kg or less

Medications

- Anticoagulant use associated with significant head trauma (not including Aspirin) *

Motor Response/Neuro

- Head injury with loss of consciousness; amnesia*

Circulation

- Carotid or femoral palpable, but the radial or pedal not palpable **OR** SBP less than 90

Fracture

- Single long bone fracture sustained in MVC or from a fall greater than 10 feet*

Cutaneous

- Burns in conjunction with trauma*

Mechanism of Injury

- Rider separated from open cab vehicle, motorcycle, golf cart, watercraft, horse, etc.*
- Auto vs pedestrian/bicyclist thrown, run over, or with significant impact*
- Fall from a height of greater than 10 feet; or 2-3 times the height of child
- Bruising to the neck, chest, and abdomen post MVC in the pattern of the seat belt (Seat Belt Sign) *
- Low level fall in children 5 years old or younger with significant head impact.
- Suspicion of child abuse
- Perineal Hydrostatic Jetstream injury from jet-powered watercraft^{4*}

High Risk Auto Crash:

1. Significant intrusion (including roof) - over 12 inches on occupant side or 18 inches any other site: need for extrication for entrapped patient: steering wheel deformity*
2. Death in same passenger compartment*
3. Vehicle telemetry data consistent with significant impact^{5*}
4. Child (age 0-9) unrestrained or in an unsecured child safety seat

[Top](#)

Pediatric Criteria Footnotes:

¹ Airway assistance includes manual jaw thrust, continuous suctioning, or use of other adjuncts to assist ventilatory efforts.

² This excludes superficial wounds where the depth of the wound can be determined. Proximal extremities are considered at or above the elbow or knee.

³ In the event that a patient does not meet either 1 Red or 2 Blue criteria during the assessment, the paramedic can call a trauma alert, if in his/her judgment, the patient's condition **AND/OR** mechanism of injury warrants such action.

⁴ Perineal Hydrostatic Jetstream Injury is caused by the Jetstream of a watercraft while a person is in the water, not from an ejection from the watercraft. Trauma related to this injury is associated with abdominal pain **AND/OR** vaginal/rectal bleeding.

⁵ Vehicle Telemetry Data when available can be relayed to dispatch; the data can assist in predicting potential serious injuries.

***Any of the above criteria that has an (*) represents it is the same for both Adult and Pediatrics.**

C. Paramedic Judgment

If a patient does not meet any of the above criteria, Paramedic Judgment may be used as criteria to transport to a Trauma Center. Such injuries would include, but are not limited to, those sustained in a motor vehicle collision requiring prolonged extrication, penetrating extremity wounds without distal pulses, or gunshot wounds to an upper thigh or arm without an exit should be transported to a Trauma Center.

Once a Trauma Alert is declared based upon Paramedic Judgment, no one is to downgrade the Trauma Alert.

[Top](#)