

TSE FIELD TRAUMA TRIAGE GUIDELINES

Priority 1 High Risk for Serious Injury

Mental Status & Vital Signs

- Unable to follow commands (motor GCS < 6)
- RR < 10 or > 29 breaths/min
- Respiratory distress **or** need for respiratory support
- Room air pulse oximetry < 90%

Age 0-9 years:

- SBP < 70mmHg + (2x age years)
- 0 - 12mo: HR > 180 **or** < 80 (bpm)
- 12mo - 5yrs: HR > 160 **or** < 70 (bpm)
- 6 - 9yrs: HR > 140 **or** < 60 (bpm)

Age 10-64 years:

- SBP < 90mmHg **or**
- HR > SBP

Age ≥ 65 years:

- SBP < 110mmHg **or**
- HR > SBP

Injury Patterns

- Penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, **or** proximal extremities
- Skull deformity, suspected skull fracture **or** open/severe maxillofacial fracture
- Suspected spinal injury with new motor **or** sensory loss
- Chest wall instability, deformity, **or** suspected flail chest
- Suspected fracture of two **or** more proximal long bones
- Crushed, degloved, mangled, **or** pulseless extremity
- Amputation proximal to wrist **or** ankle
- Active bleeding requiring a tourniquet, **or** wound packing with continuous pressure
- Consider burn factors, including:
 - Partial thickness burns TBSA > 10%
 - Involve face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, **or** major joints
 - Inhalation injury
 - High voltage electrical injuries (e.g. industrial, lightning, etc.)
 - Burn in conjunction with trauma

Patients meeting any one of the above RED criteria should be transported to the highest-level trauma center available within the geographic constraints of the regional trauma system.

Priority 2 Moderate Risk for Serious Injury

Mechanism of Injury

- High-Risk auto crash
 - Partial **or** complete ejection
 - Significant intrusion (including roof)
 - > 12 inches occupant site **or**
 - > 18 inches any site **or**
 - Need for extrication for entrapped patient
 - Death in passenger compartment
 - Child (Age 0-9) unrestrained **or** in unsecured child safety seat
 - Vehicle telemetry data consistent with severe injury
- Rider separated from transport vehicle with significant impact (e.g. motorcycle, ATV, horse, etc.)
- Pedestrian/bicycle rider thrown, run over, **or** with significant impact
- Fall from height > 10 feet (all ages)
- Blunt abdominal trauma with firm, distended abdomen

EMS Judgment

Consider risk factors, including:

- Low-level falls in young children (age ≤ 5 years) **or** older adults (age ≥ 65 years) with significant head impact
- Anticoagulant use
- Suspicion of child abuse
- Suspicion of hanging, drowning, **or** exposure to hypothermic conditions
- Special, high-resource healthcare needs
- Pregnancy > 20 weeks
- Children should be triaged preferentially to pediatric capable centers

**Priority may be UPGRADED by
EMS DISCRETION**

Version 5, Nov 2022



Patients meeting any one of the above YELLOW CRITERIA WHO DO NOT MEET RED CRITERIA should be preferentially transported to a trauma center as available within the geographic constraints of the regional trauma system (need not be the highest-level trauma center).