

Road Traffic Collision

Actions at A RTC

- Approach slowly & safely.
- Park in a 'fend off' position.
- Assess the overall scene, think Danger.
- Gain access to the casualty.
- Make the vehicle safe.
- Check CABC's first – prioritise treatment.
- Secondary survey.

The 'safe' approach

S – Shout for help.

A – Assess the Situation. Scene Assessment, Check for hazards.

F – Free the casualty from Danger. ONLY if necessary.

E – Evacuate the casualty to a safe area. ONLY if necessary.

Outer circle survey

- Look for casualties no longer in cars.
- Locate other vehicles involved.
- Check for obvious hazards

Inner circle survey

- Determine number & condition of casualties in vehicles – Prioritize treatment.
- Degree of entrapment.

Casualty removal

ONLY to be done in the following situations:

- When the scene is unsafe & clear danger to the rescuer and/or casualty exists, necessitating rapid removal to a safe location.
- They need immediate intervention that cannot be done in the vehicle.
- Need immediate transport to a hospital without delay (VSI & Pregnant).
- When the casualty blocks the rescuer's access to other more seriously injured casualties in the vehicle.

Dangers – outside the vehicle

- Other traffic – Assess hazards prior to moving closer - Use of 'Warning' triangles, flares & even waving hands.
- Unstable vehicle – Bent & torn metal, broken glass - Apply handbrake, 'chock & block'.
- Fumes (petrol/gas, battery acid, oils)
- Fire & Smoke – Frontal impacts damage radiator. Water on hot engine block creates steam – Stay away.
- Fuel leaks – Turn off the ignition, place keys on dash - If high suspicion of fuel leak – Make a decision!
- Other hazards - Power lines, damaged buildings, tree falls, debris on road, weather & visibility, by-standers etc.

Dangers – inside the vehicle

- Seatbelts – Initially only remove if you have to. Assess the need as events/hazards develop.

- Vehicle Up-side down – Access hazards, casualty needs.
- Unexploded airbags – beware of where you position yourself when giving first aid.
- Locked vehicle – Break glass away from casualties - Beware of flying glass & vehicle cargo (unstable, hazardous material).
- Engine noise – Hinders casualty assessments.

Airbags

- Indicated by SRS, SIR or SRS/Air bag.
- Airbag risk for those sitting 10” or less away from steering wheel.
- Non-Toxic ‘smoke’, cornstarch or talcum powder following Airbag deployment.

- The airbag cannot smother you or restrict the movement of the passenger when deflated.
- Beware secondary airbags not yet deployed.

Interior checklist

- Unlock all doors/open all windows?
- Turn off ignition – place keys on dashboard.
- Assess casualty injuries – prioritise.
- Cut seatbelts if necessary.
- Cover the casualty – Treat for Shock.
- Assume C-Spine & airway control.
- Monitor the casualty – vital signs.
- Communicate with others – Get help ASAP. Use the term “FREEZE” to stop all operations/activities.