

Additional Information / Pointers for teaching Assessment

Your goal is to teach the Scouts to use their senses and smarts to help them figure what might be wrong with a patient.

This requires a consistent approach to sizing up the situation. It is a skill that can be learned by almost everyone, but it does require a little practice to begin with.

There are a few basic elements to assessment.

- 1) Scene safety
- 2) Rapid urgent assessment
- 3) Notify EMS if possible
- 4) In-depth assessment, either focused or whole-body depending on situation.

Think about “mechanism of injury”. This means: how did the person get hurt? This helps you think about what other injuries might be present but not so obvious. For example, a person with a laceration and a large bump on their head from riding their bicycle into a highway sign has the potential for internal head injuries, skull fractures, and cervical spinal injuries. A victim who fell down a steep embankment might be complaining of an obviously broken arm and road rash, but might also have broken ribs, head injuries, spinal injuries, other fractures, or internal injuries.

Add in the “always” questions.