

# Emergency Medical Responder: A Skills Approach

Fifth Canadian Edition



FIFTH CANADIAN EDITION

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER

A SKILLS APPROACH

MEETS PARAMEDIC ASSOCIATION OF CANADA'S  
NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL COMPETENCY PROFILE



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33 - 1

## Chapter 33

Vehicle Stabilization and  
Patient Extrication

## Objectives (1 of 2)

- Describe the five types of personal protective equipment recommended for EMRs at the site of an MVA.
- Discuss six ways to determine the number of patients at the scene of an MVA.
- Describe the three basic goals of traffic control at the scene of an MVA.



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33 - 2

## Objectives (2 of 2)

- State how a rescuer can recognize whether or not a vehicle is stable and describe the basic steps of stabilizing an upright vehicle and an overturned vehicle.
- Discuss the role of the EMR in extrication and list various methods and tools for gaining single or complex access to the patient.

## Personal Protective Equipment

**All EMS responders working in or around a wrecked vehicle and an extrication in progress must wear the following:**

- Eye protection
- Hand protection
- Body protection
- Foot protection

## Determine the Number of Patients (1 of 2)

**To determine the resources you need, find out how many patients are involved.**

- If safe to do so, ask a conscious patient to tell you how many people were involved in the MVA
- Ask witnesses if any victims walked away
- High impact crashes – search the surrounding area carefully

## Determine the Number of Patients (2 of 2)

**To determine the resources you need, find out how many patients are involved.**

- Look for tracks in the earth or snow
- Carefully search the vehicle
- Look quickly for items that give clues to children unaccounted for

## Control Scene

- Quickly deal with bystanders and have them move out of the danger zone
- Do not permit smoking on the scene
- Turn off all vehicle ignitions
- Have a fire crew stand by, if possible

## Control Traffic

**The basic goals of traffic control at an MVA scene are**

- Clear the scene so emergency vehicles can get through quickly
- Monitor the scene to prevent further crashes
- Monitor the scene so passing vehicles have minimum of inconvenience

## Vehicle Stabilization

**Assume a vehicle is not stable in the following circumstances:**

- It is on a tilted surface, like a hill
- Part of it is stacked on top of another vehicle
- It is on a slippery surface
- It is overturned
- It rests on its side

## Patient Extrication

**There are two basic ways a rescuer can gain access to a patient:**

- Simple access
- Complex access

## Patient Extraction (1 of 2)

**If a patient is jammed or pinned inside the vehicle, consider the following simple procedures:**

- Remove a shoe or other piece of clothing that may be pinning patient
- Move the front seat to give additional working space
- Seat belts that won't open can be cut with shears or a knife

## Patient Extrication (2 of 2)



**Figure 33-2** Jaws, or spreaders.

## Emergency Care of the Patient

- Safety first
- Provide care as with trauma patient
- Remain with patient during a complete extrication
- Continually monitor condition
- Keep the patient calm
- Immobilize the patient's spine during the rescue

## Extrication Tools and Equipment

Hammers	Shovels
Screwdrivers	Tire irons
Chisels	Wrenches
Crowbars	Knives
Pliers	Car jacks
Linoleum knives	Ropes
Work gloves	Chains
Goggles	