

Module

2

trans^ámbulance

Assurance working environment for patient and care team in emergency



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01

02

03. Material to protect the action zone

04

05

06

07

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00. Click the page you want to view



4. Material to protect the action zone

the safety on scene is a priority for assistance. Health team must not access until the safety of the scene and staff are guaranteed. The **security officers** can be firefighters, police officers, responsible for regulating the traffic (in case of roads) or healthcare team (in case to make a defibrillation –[Figure 1](#)– or care of a patient with infectious and contagious diseases).



Figure 1. Emergency Medical Technician with a defibrillator.

Module ② Assurance working environment for patient and care team in emergency

To **secure the area**, we can have different types of materials:

- Material for self-protection.
- Own material.
- Materials or means of fortune.

Depending on the type of incident, the risk varies. So, in traffic accidents, the biggest risk is fire vehicle. The easier way to eliminate this risk is to **remove the power source of the vehicle**, in our case by removing the ignition key or the negative terminal battery. We can cut the cord with scissors cut clothes if it is not otherwise possible disconnect.

We know that some systems, such as airbags, sometimes are not disabled at all despite having removed the contact, with what could jump and seriously injure us. In the market, there are different devices that secure the airbag in the intervention, especially the driver. Knowing that on jumping airbag, the same mechanism of action causes **a gas and dust cloud**. Gas is used to open and dust, that the bag does not burn at that speed when opened. In any case, **not are toxic** either. This gas and dust make the vehicle occupants out scared, as it is very striking.

Module ② Assurance working environment for patient and care team in emergency

We must always have prepared the **fire extinguisher of the ambulance** (Figure 2), especially if there is an oil or fuel spillage. Of course, even if no spill, smoking is prohibited in the traffic accident.

In case of spill we will have to increase the **safety distance** and it is important to know what kind of fuel has been spilled. The gasoline generates vapor which can be ignited by any spark, even static electricity generated by non-cotton uniform, but if it is diesel, auto-ignition temperature is 270 °C which could be ignited in presence of flames between 56 and 92 °C. Despite of this, we will not relax the security at any time.

If a vehicle begins to burn you have to zoom out nearby vehicles, when it can be done safely, especially the ambulance load by having oxygen bottles.

The cars do not explode because the tank is designed to avoid it. If we hear small explosions are the tires exploiting.

In the event that is the engine of the vehicle where the fire originates, we know that if we open the hood, let the entry of oxygen, which will cause the fire to expand and become uncontrollable in a few minutes by the presence of fat, oil and plastics inside.



Figure 2. Fire extinguisher of the ambulance.

Module ② Assurance working environment for patient and care team in emergency

To turn off, use the extinguisher powder of the ambulance (or any other available), we will take short bursts underneath the engine, **later we will open slightly the hood**, continuing throwing bursts inside the engine. This will drown the fire. Once done, we will open the bonnet completely, ending the extinguisher on the few flames that may be active.

To indicate an area of an accident we use **hazard warning triangles**, backed with rubber cones, lights or fences direction to facilitate other users the maneuver to be marked. Generally the responsible for conducting this task are the bodies of traffic safety, but it is possible that, if the ambulance arrives at the scene before, we have to do it until they come. This will make the scene safer.

If the accident has occurred against an electrical object, we will assess the risk to find out whether it has electrical current or not. For example, streetlights only have power at night, but the traffic lights fences or light poles have electricity 24 hours. These are controlled by a nearby control unit. In any case, we will have to call the maintenance or lighting services for eliminate the risk.

Nighttime accidents increase risk for the lack of visibility. It is vital to properly and enough distance signalling to avoid risk in the intervention or other accident is generated because of this. To signal it we will have to use the **rotary lights of the ambulance**, lanterns or lights of other vehicles if necessary, so it is the best way illuminated.

With not stable large objects there are to get stabilization to secure the area. For example, in the case of truck loading that may fall or objects that may be precipitated from a higher driveway to a lower one, we will have to cut the traffic on all roads where there is a risk to avoid further damage or other accidents.

Module ② Assurance working environment for patient and care team in emergency

If extinction corps have not reached, we will have to be used means of fortune to avoid these charges or objects to be mobilized, stabilizing them with ropes, cables or wedges.

