



Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION **TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM 2017-10**

DATE: August 7, 2017
TO: Criminal Justice Training Center Directors
FROM: Director Dean Register *DR*
Criminal Justice Professionalism Division
SUBJECT: High Liability—First Aid

Please disregard Curriculum Alert 2016-09, which provided new guidance on treating open chest wounds. After consultation with several subject matter experts and more research, we are reverting to the previously published treatment for chest wounds. The method we are recommending comes from the U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Safety Administration's First Responder National Curriculum. Please teach the following content from the 2016 textbook:

Unit 3: Trauma Related Issues

Lesson 5: Chest, Abdominal, and Genital Injuries

A **sucking chest injury** is a type of open chest injury in which air and blood escape into the area surrounding the lungs, creating a change in the pressure in the chest cavity. This can create breathing difficulties because it will not allow the lungs to expand and contract properly. You may hear a sucking noise or the injury may bubble as air moves through the open injury.

To treat a chest injury,

1. Use BSI and appropriate PPE.
2. If it is an open chest injury, apply an occlusive (airtight) dressing to the injury.
3. If the patient has difficulty breathing, allow the patient to position him- or herself in a sitting or semi-sitting position. If the patient must lie down, position him or her on the injured side. Be aware that the patient may have neck and spinal injuries. If the patient is already seated, do not elevate his or her feet.
4. Perform ongoing assessment for life-threatening conditions. Maintain ABCs, and treat for shock.
5. Be prepared to perform CPR and use an AED if available.

If you have any questions, please contact Bureau Chief Dwight Floyd at (850) 410-8675 or [dwightfloyd@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:dwrightfloyd@fdle.state.fl.us).

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cc: Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission