Checking the Person

- Describe how to check for life-threatening and non-life-threatening conditions in an adult, child, and infant.
- Identify and explain at least three questions you should ask the person or bystanders in an interview.
- Demonstrate how to check an unconscious adult, child, and infant.

What are life-threatening conditions?

- Conditions that are life threatening include:
  - Unconsciousness.
  - Not breathing or trouble breathing.
  - No signs of life (normal breathing, movement) and for children and infants, no pulse.
  - Severe bleeding.
  - (Full list on page 21)

Checking for Consciousness

- To determine if a victim is conscious, tap him or her on the shoulders and shout “Are you okay?”
  - For an infant gently tap the infant’s shoulder or flick the foot.
- If the victim is conscious and alert, introduce yourself and get the victim’s consent.
  - Look for signals of injury, interview bystanders, call 9-1-1.
- If the victim is unconscious, call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number immediately.
  - When to Call First or Care First?
Checking for Consciousness

If you must leave the scene to call 9-1-1, place the victim in a recovery position.

- Figure 5-10
- If you suspect head, neck or back injury, and a clear, open airway CAN be maintained, do not move unnecessarily
- If you suspect head, neck or back injury, and a clear, open airway CANNOT be maintained, move into HAINES position
  - High Arm IN Endangered Spine recovery position

Unconscious Person

- Check an unconscious person to see if they have an open airway, show signs of life, and/or are bleeding severely
- Use ABC’s to remember
  - Airway – open the air way
    - Head-tilt/Chin-lift
  - Breathing – check for movement or breathing
    - Look-Listen-Feel for 10 seconds
    - Give two rescue breaths, if successful, move on
  - Circulation – check for pulse and severe bleeding
    - For a child or infant, Check pulse for 10 seconds
    - Carotid (child) or Brachial (infant)
Breathing Barriers

- A resuscitation mask or face shield (also known as a CPR breathing barrier) may reduce the risk of disease transmission between the responder and the victim.

Checking a Conscious Person

- Once you determine that a victim is conscious and has no life-threatening conditions, you can begin to check for other conditions that may need care.
- Checking a conscious person with no life-threatening conditions involves two basic steps—
  1. Interview the victim and bystanders.
  2. Check an adult from head to toe or a child from toe to head.
Checking a Conscious Victim

- When possible, the victim should always be checked in the position in which he or she is found.
- Begin interviewing by asking the victim some simple questions:
  - What happened?
  - Do you feel pain anywhere?
  - Do you have any allergies?
  - Do you have any medical condition or are you taking any medications?
  - Can you describe the pain?
  - What were you doing when this happened?
  - Can you rate the pain on a scale of 1 to 10?
- Write down the information you learn.

Checking a Conscious Person

- Perform a head-to-toe examination.
- When checking a conscious infant or child, follow the same general steps as for an adult, except check the victim from toe to head.

Deciding Whether to Transport the Victim

- Do not transport a victim—
  - When the trip may aggravate the injury or illness or cause additional injury.
  - When the victim has or may develop a life-threatening condition.
  - If you are unsure of the nature of the injury.
- With a life-threatening condition or if there is a possibility of further injury, call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number and wait for help.
- MSP History
Special Considerations

- If you are alone and find an unconscious child or infant who is not breathing but does have a pulse, give rescue breathing for 2 minutes before calling 9-1-1 or the local emergency number.
- When checking a child or infant for non-life-threatening conditions, observe the child before touching him or her.
- Communicate clearly with the parent or guardian and the child.
- When checking an older adult—
  - Attempt to learn the victim’s name.
  - Get at the victim’s eye level.
  - Speak slowly and clearly.
  - Find out what medications the victim is taking.
  - Look for a medical alert ID bracelet or necklace.

Care for a Conscious Person

- Do no further harm.
- Monitor the person’s level of consciousness and breathing. A change in the person’s condition may be a signal of a more serious injury or illness.
- Help the person rest in the most comfortable position.
- Keep the person from getting chilled or overheated.
- Comfort and reassure the person, but do not provide false hope.
- Give any specific care as needed.
- Protect against Shock

Closing

- In every emergency, follow the emergency action steps: CHECK — CALL — CARE.
- CHECK the scene for safety then CHECK the person for any life-threatening conditions.
  - If the person is conscious, interview the person and any bystanders to find out what happened.
  - Always introduce yourself and obtain consent before giving care.
  - Perform a head-to-toe examination (toe-to-head for a child or infant) to find and care for any injuries or signals of illness.
- CALL, or have someone else call, 9-1-1 or the local emergency number immediately.
- CARE for the ill or injured person.