

# Radiation Injuries Adult & Pediatric

9.2

Exposure to radioactive source or radioactive material/debris

## EMT/ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Remove the patient from scene and decontaminate by appropriately trained personnel.
- Triage tools for mass casualty incident
  - If vomiting starts:
    - Within 1 hour of exposure, survival is unlikely and patient should be tagged "Expectant."
    - Less than 4 hours after exposure, patient needs immediate decontamination and evaluation and should be tagged "immediate."
    - 4 hours after exposure, reevaluation can be delayed 24 – 72 hours if no other injury is present and patient should be tagged "Delayed".
- Routine Patient Care.
- Treat traumatic injuries and underlying medical conditions.
- Patients with residual contamination risk from wounds, shrapnel, or internal contamination should be wrapped in water repellent dressings to reduce cross contamination.
- Consider Air Medical Transport after proven definitive decontamination of patient.

## ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Consider anti-emetic, see [Nausea/Vomiting Protocol 2.12.](#)

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Consider pain management, see [Pain Management Protocol 2.17.](#)

### PEARLS:

- In general, trauma patients who have been exposed to or contaminated by radiation should be triaged and treated on the basis of the severity of their conventional injuries
- A patient who is contaminated with radioactive material (e.g. flecks of radioactive material embedded in their clothing and skin) generally poses a minimal exposure risk to medical personnel.