

Minnesota EMS Trauma Field Triage Guideline

August 2023

	Field Triage Indicator	Evidence ¹	Transport Directive ²
Airway	Compromised and unsecure airway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airway obstruction Unable to intubate or place supraglottic airway 	Transport to the closest designated trauma hospital within 30 minutes.
Breathing	Respiratory distress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RR < 10 or > 29 Need for respiratory support Room-air pulse oximetry <90% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport to a designated level 1 or 2 trauma hospital that is within 30 minutes transport time. If no level 1 or 2 within 30 minutes transport time, transport to closest designated trauma hospital within 30 minutes transport time, or to a more appropriate higher-designated trauma hospital if predetermined by local medical directions. If no designated trauma hospital is within 30 minutes transport time, transport to the closest hospital.
Circulation	Signs of shock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HR > SBP Hypotension 	
Disability	Unable to follow commands ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCS motor score < 6 AVPU < A 	
Injury Pattern	Known or suspected high-risk injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proximal penetrating injuries Skull deformity Chest wall instability Suspected pelvic fracture Extremity crushed, degloved, mangled, or pulseless Proximal amputation Uncontrolled hemorrhage Hemorrhage requiring tourniquet 	
Mechanism of Injury	High-risk mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-risk motor vehicle crash Partial or complete ejection Significant intrusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 12 inches occupant side > 18 inches anywhere Need for extrication Death in same compartment Unrestrained child < 10 y.o. Vehicle telemetry data consistent with severe injury Rider separated from vehicle with significant impact (motorcycle, ATV, horse, etc.) Pedestrian or bicycle rider thrown, run over, or significant impact Fall > 10 feet (any age) 	Consider transport to a designated trauma hospital.
EMS Judgement	Trauma with risk factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low-level falls, < 6 or > 65 y.o. with significant head impact Anticoagulant use Suspected child abuse High-resource health care needs Pregnancy > 20 weeks Burns with concomitant trauma 	

Children ≤ 14 y.o. should be preferentially triaged to a pediatric trauma hospital when possible.

¹ Items listed in the *Evidence* column suggest that the Field Triage Indicator may be met but are not required criteria for the purposes of Minnesota Statutes 144E.101, Subdivision 14.

² EMS agencies wishing to deviate from these trauma field triage guidelines due to the availability of local or regional resources can apply to the EMSRB in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 144E.101, Subdivision 14 if the deviation is in patients' best interest.

³ Altered from baseline and resulting from a traumatic event