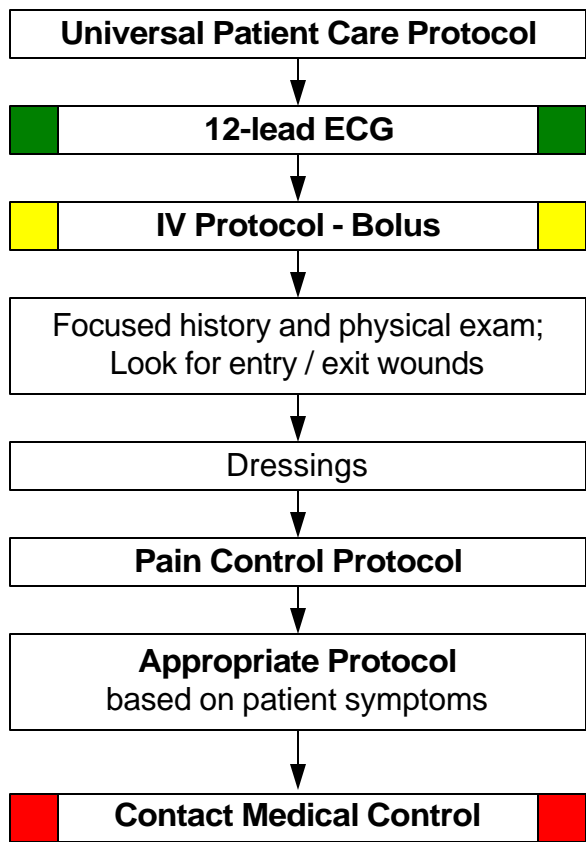


FORSYTH COUNTY EMS Trauma Protocols

Electrical Injuries

History: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Lightning or electrical source * Single or multiple victims * Trauma secondary to fall from highwire or MVC into line. * Duration of exposure * Voltage and current (AC/DC) 	Signs and Symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Burns * Pain * Entry and exit wounds * Hypotension or shock * Cardiac Arrest 	Differential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Cardiac Arrest * Seizure * Burns (see Burn Protocol) * Multiple trauma
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Legend		
	MR / EMT	
	Expanded Scope EMT	
	EMT-I	
	EMT-P	
	Medical Control	

Pearls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Exam: Mental Status, HEENT, Neck, Heart, Lungs, Abdomen, Extremities, Back, Neuro * Ventricular fibrillation and asystole are the most common dysrhythmias. * Damage is often hidden; the most severe damage will occur in muscle, vessels and nerves. * In a mass casualty lightning incident, attend to victims in full arrest first. If the victim did not arrest initially, it is likely they will survive. * Do not overlook other trauma (i.e. falls). * Lightning is a massive DC shock most often leading to asystole as the arrhythmia. * In lightning injuries, most of the current will travel over the body surface producing flash burns. * In lightning strikes with multiple victims treat those in cardiac arrest first, instead of normal triage.
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