

# UNIT I STUDY GUIDE

## STUDENT EMERGENCIES

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- A. Contact your employer for a copy of your school district's guidelines and procedures for handling student emergencies.
- B. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS UNIT IS ONLY GENERAL GUIDELINES. YOU MUST FOLLOW YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES REGARDING RECEIVING FIRST AID TRAINING AND ADMINISTERING FIRST AID ON YOUR SCHOOL BUS.
- C. FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY CARE ARE ONLY TEMPORARY STEPS TAKEN UNTIL MORE ADVANCED TREATMENT CAN BE OBTAINED, EITHER AT THE SCENE OF AN INCIDENT OR AT A HOSPITAL.
- D. The first priority for a crash or sudden illness is to keep the situation from getting worse until professional assistance arrives.
- E. Drivers need to be able to control hazards, evaluate injuries, enlist others' help, contact emergency medical services, control non-injured students, and control access to your students.
- F. This unit offers basic information. Further certification is strongly recommended.

### 2. MEDICAL LIABILITY

- A. The "Good Samaritan Act" MAY provide school bus drivers with protection from civil liability when rendering first aid or emergency care.
- B. The legal protection provided by Pennsylvania's Good Samaritan Act requires that you be currently certified in emergency care by the American National Red Cross, the American Heart Association, or through a similar course approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

### 3. FIRST AID PROCEDURES

- A. Report ALL incidents to your supervisor.
- B. Setting Priorities
  - ◆ Hazards that could make the situation worse:
    - Existing or imminent fire,
    - Hazardous materials,
    - Unsafe site, or
    - Distractions.
  - ◆ Obtain emergency medical assistance, if necessary.
    - Know what telephone number to call.
    - The exact location of the bus at the time of the call.
    - The number of people injured.
    - A description of the vehicles involved (in the case of a crash).

- ◆ Use Responsible Helpers.
    - Know your passengers.
    - Adult bystanders.
    - ONLY IN EXTREME EMERGENCIES SHOULD OLDER RESPONSIBLE STUDENTS BE SENT FOR HELP.
    - FOLLOW LOCAL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES.
  - ◆ Assess the seriousness of injuries or illnesses.
    - Prioritize injuries if more than one.
    - Do not treat unless certified.
    - Be organized and do one thing at a time.
  - ◆ Consider the safety of healthy, unharmed passengers.
  - ◆ Consider the driver's own safety.
- C. Treatment Procedures.
- ◆ Seizures
    - Lay the student down, if not already on the floor.
    - Cushion the student's head and remove dangerous objects.
    - Monitor the student's airway.
    - Do not put fingers or objects in the student's mouth during a seizure.
  - ◆ Fractures
    - Any break or crack in a bone.
    - Typically requires an X-ray to definitively diagnose.
    - Fractures must be immobilized with a splint, or prevent the student from moving.
    - Generally, fractures are not life threatening.
    - If an extreme situation requires immediate removal of the student, drag them along the axis of their body on a coat or blanket.
  - ◆ Allergic Reaction: Bites and Stings
    - Apply direct pressure over bitten area.
    - Learn if student has allergies to stings or bites.
    - Use cold compress, if available, to reduce swelling.
  - ◆ Allergic Reaction: Anaphylactic Shock
    - Students may be able to tell the driver about the onset of symptoms.
    - Allergic reactions can turn life-threatening quickly due to constricting airways.
    - Student with known allergic conditions often carry medications.
    - If no medications, seek professional assistance as quickly as possible.
    - Follow local procedures regarding use of autoinjectors.

- ◆ Asthma
  - Can be life threatening.
  - Students often carry inhalers.
  - Sit a student having an asthma attack comfortably upright.
  - Assist with inhaler, if necessary.
  - Call for assistance if no inhaler, or inhaler is ineffective.
- ◆ Bites
  - One of the most common first-aid problems on a school bus.
  - Clean the bites with an antiseptic wipe and cover with a band-aid.
  - Report the incident to your supervisor.
- ◆ External Bleeding
  - Call for assistance for serious wounds.
  - Take precautions to protect against bloodborne pathogens.
  - Apply pressure to the wound with a sterile bandage.
  - Raise and support the injured part above the level of the heart, if possible.
- ◆ Internal Bleeding
  - Internal bleeding requires expert medical help.
  - Position a student with suspected internal bleeding on their back with legs elevated.
  - Give nothing by mouth.
- ◆ Choking
  - Do not slap a choking student on the back.
  - Check the choking student's mouth for loose obstructions.
  - Stand behind the choking student and wrap your arms around their waist.
  - Make a fist and place the thumb side of the fist against the student's abdomen slightly above the navel.
  - Grasp the fist with the other hand and press the fist into the student's abdomen with a quick upward thrust.
  - Repeat until the student expels the obstruction.
- ◆ Dehydration
  - Prolonged dehydration can lead to shock and is potentially fatal.
  - Drivers may see on afternoon runs.
  - Give cool water to drink, if available.
- ◆ Diabetes
  - Students with diabetes may demonstrate hypoglycemia, a need for sugar.
  - Drivers are not expected to give insulin injections or check blood glucose levels.
  - Drivers may give a sweet drink, if available.
  - Identify students with diabetes at the beginning of the school year, if possible.
  - Be familiar with a student's Quick Reference Emergency Plan.

- ◆ Heat Stroke
  - Potentially fatal.
  - Give fluids and cool water.
- ◆ Hyperventilation
  - Stress-related or deliberate over-breathing.
  - Reassure student.
  - Remove cause of anxiety, if possible.
  - If the student has fainted, lay student down with legs elevated.
- ◆ Nose Bleeds
  - Elevate the trunk of the student's body.
  - Tilt the student's head forward and compress their nostrils for five to ten minutes.

#### **4. REPORT ALL INCIDENTS**

- A. Proper, timely reporting of incidents is important from a liability point of view.
- B. Observe students to determine if any long-term consequences from a crash or injury exist.
- C. Inform substitute drivers of any students' medical problems on your route.

#### **5. FIRST AID PROCEDURES**

- A. State regulations dictate the content of your first aid kit.
- B. Your kit must at least contain the 10 items listed.
- C. The first aid kit must be in an accessible place and be able to be opened or removed without the use of a tool.
- D. The kit should be inspected each day, and items replaced as they are used.
- E. Body Fluid Clean Up Kits are required.
  - ◆ ALWAYS protect yourself.
  - ◆ Wear disposable gloves when cleaning up body fluids.
  - ◆ Use paper towels followed by disinfectant for small spills.
  - ◆ For larger spills use solution to solidify body fluids.
  - ◆ Dispose of gloves when finished and place all clean up materials in a plastic bag.
  - ◆ Be sure to wash your hands as soon as possible.