



ELECTRICAL EMERGENCIES



Escambia County, Florida - ALS/BLS Medical Protocol

A wide range of injuries can be caused from a lightning strike or contact with electricity.

Electrical injury can occur from direct contact, an arc, or a flash of the electricity and a direct hit or a splash from lightning.

The movement of electrical current through the body can cause violent muscle contractions that can lead to fractures, and therefore, the C-spine should be protected.

The thermal energy can cause external burns, but in many cases the majority of thermal damage is internal, with few external signs of injury.

Dysrhythmias are also common (e.g. ventricular fibrillation).

The rescuer should be sure that the patient is no longer in contact with the electrical current before initiating treatment.

Supportive Care

[Trauma Supportive Care Protocol](#), (protect C-spine).

Treat burns per [Burn Injuries Protocol](#).

Consider need to transport to a [trauma center](#).

4. Monitor cardiac rhythm.

ALS Level 1

1. Treat dysrhythmias per specific protocol.

ALS Level 2 (*Physician Authorization Required*)

None



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