M8: Perform First Aid for an Open Head Wound in a CBRNE Environment

Based on:

081-831-1033-Perform First Aid for an Open Head Wound

081-COM-1054-Apply an Emergency Bandage

Task: Treat a casualty with an open head wound.

Condition: You are a member of a team on a combat patrol in a CBRNE environment that has come under indirect fire. You witness a teammate in the open receive fragmentation to the head. Your teammate was able to move to you and is responsive. You are behind cover, not under hostile fire, and security has been established. You must begin treatment while waiting on medical personnel to arrive. The casualty is conscious and alert. You are in Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) level three.

Standard: Perform all tasks to standard, in sequence, within five minutes, without causing further injury.

Station Requirements: A simulated casualty (mannequin with all extremities) with a clearly visible simulated head wound. Casualty will be in a full MOPP level three combat uniform per Unit SOP, including weapon and a fully packed Improved First Aid Kit (IFAK). Something for the casualty to sit/lean against. Unit may degrade this Candidate's MOPP uniform due to heat considerations, but the Candidate will wear the complete EIB uniform and protective mask at a minimum.

1. Check the casualty's level of consciousness by asking, "What is your name? Where are you? What is today's date?"
    Grader states, "The casualty replies appropriately."
2. Position the casualty.
    a. Have the casualty sit up.
    b. Turn head to the side (opposite the wound) to prevent bleeding into the mouth.
3. Expose the wound by removing the casualty's helmet, if necessary, but retaining all MOPP garments. Do NOT attempt to clean the wound, remove a protruding object, or apply a pressure dressing.
Do NOT put unnecessary pressure on the wound or attempt to push any brain matter back into the head (skull). Do NOT touch white (sterile) side of dressing or allow it to come into contact with any surface other than wound.
4. Apply Emergency Bandage
    a. Place white portion of the bandage down covering all the wound.
    b. Wrap the elastic portion of the bandage around the head.
        1. Continue to wrap the wound firmly enough to prevent slipping without applying excessive pressure.
    c. Secure the closure bar to the bandage.
5. Watch the casualty for life-threatening conditions, check for other injuries, and treat for shock. Seek medical aid.