Emergency department staff may be injured or exposed to disease and hazardous substances when helping patients from vehicles. Leadership support and proper training will help ensure a culture of safety that protects staff and decreases these risks.

### Develop and Provide Training
- Include safe vehicle extrication measures in Safe Patient Handling programs
- Collaborate with local EMS agencies
- Decrease risk for exposure to illicit fentanyl and carfentanil due to opioid crisis
- Address exposure hazards such as blood, body fluids, used syringes, combative patients, weapons, and dangerous drugs
- Address safe removal of unresponsive or bariatric patients

### Use Situational Awareness
when approaching vehicles
- Assess what resources are available to protect you, the team, and the patient. Use a buddy system.
- Look for physical indicators of potential danger to self or others
- Use a high degree of suspicion and close attention to detail

### Use Safe Methods to Extract Patients
Use mechanical lifts, slide boards, and friction-reducing devices designed for moving patients in and out of vehicles as an alternative to manual lifting

### Use Personal Protective Equipment
- Have face shields, gowns, and puncture-resistant gloves accessible near ED entrances
- Don’t reach into areas of the vehicle you can’t see

For references contact IQSIP@ena.org

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