

Major trauma includes the following:

1) Physiologic status-

➤ Patients with multi-system blunt or penetrating trauma and unstable vital signs

2) Anatomical injuries –

➤ Patients with known or suspected injuries and stable or normal vital signs

3) Mechanism of injury –

➤ Patients who are involved in a “high energy” event with a risk for severe injury despite stable or normal vital signs

Once these patients are identified, an appropriate systems response should be activated. Triage occurs at both the pre-hospital and hospital levels.