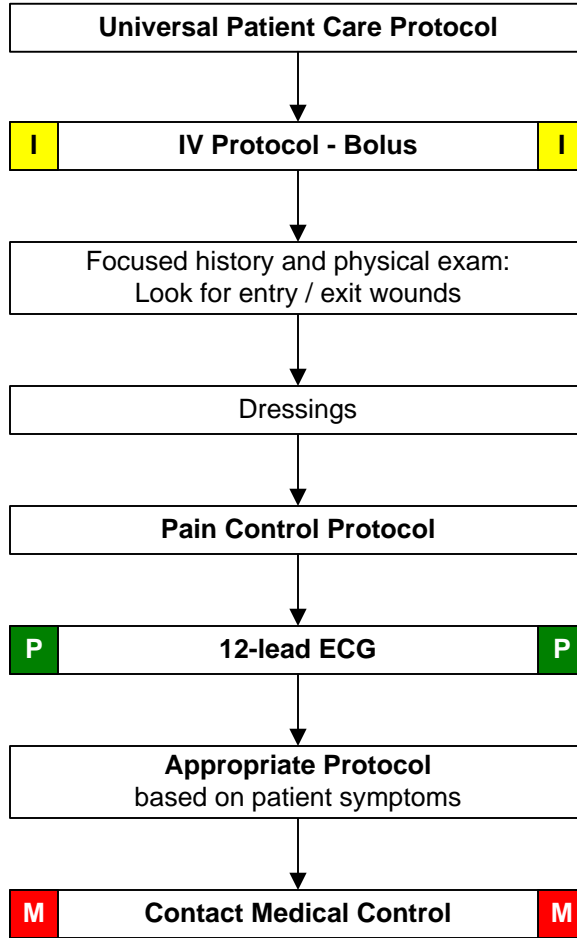




Electrical Injuries



History: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lightning or electrical exposure • Single or multiple victims • Trauma secondary to fall from highwire or MVC into line • Duration of exposure • Voltage and current (AC / DC) 	Signs and Symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burns • Pain • Entry and exit wounds • Hypotension or shock • Arrest 	Differential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiac arrest • Seizure • Burns (see Burn Protocol) • Multiple trauma
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Legend		
	EMT	
I	EMT- I	I
P	EMT- P	P
M	MC Order	M

Pearls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam: Mental Status, HEENT, Neck, Heart, Lungs, Abdomen, Extremities, Back, Neuro • Ventricular fibrillation and asystole are the most common dysrhythmias. • Damage is often hidden; the most severe damage will occur in muscle, vessels and nerves. • In a mass casualty lightning incident, attend to victims in full arrest first. If the victim did not arrest initially, it is likely they will survive. • Do not overlook other trauma (i.e. falls). • Lightning is a massive DC shock most often leading to asystole as a dysrhythmia. • In lightning injuries, most of the current will travel over the body surface producing flash burns.
