

## Chest Injuries (Adult and Pediatric)

### CFR AND ALL PROVIDER LEVELS

1. Observe spinal injury precautions, if appropriate.
2. ABCs and vital signs
3. Airway management, and appropriate oxygen therapy.
4. Position the patient on the affected side unless it will complicate the injury.
5. If there is a sucking chest wound, cover with occlusive dressing; if dyspnea increases, release the dressing, momentarily, during exhalation.

### ● CFR STOP

#### EMT

6. Transport.

### ● EMT STOP

#### Paramedic

7. For suspected tension pneumothorax, follow Appendix O (Needle Decompression Of Tension Pneumothorax).
8. Begin cardiac monitoring.

### ● Paramedic STOP

#### Key Points / Considerations

1. Decreased breath sounds and muffled heart sounds indicate life-threatening chest injuries. The patient should be transported immediately.