

1196 GLOSSARY

toxicological event an event where a patient has been exposed to a harmful substance OR an incident in which the intentional or unintentional use of a substance or poison either endangers public safety and/or results in a medical emergency.

toxin a noxious or poisonous substance produced by an organism.

trachea the respiratory system structure that connects the pharynx to the bronchi; the “windpipe.”

traction the amount of force required to straighten a limb and keep it in alignment; for a fractured femur, typically 10 percent of the patient’s body weight, or approximately 15 pounds.

traction splint a splint used on a lower extremity to align a fracture, such as a mid-shaft fracture of the femur.

transfer flat a large sheet-like device, used to lift large and heavy patients, that is constructed of thick, reinforced material and has both load-bearing straps and handles sewn into the device.

transport to convey from one place to another.

transport vehicles various engine-powered vehicles (such as all-terrain vehicles or ATVs, snow machines, golf carts, automobiles, ambulances, etc.) used to transport patients.

trauma physical injury caused by an external force.

trauma center a specialized hospital providing 24-hour trauma care, including stabilization, critical care, subspecialty care, and nursing care.

trauma surgeon a physician who specializes in trauma care.

traumatic asphyxia the inability to breathe and hypoxia that results from the inability of the chest wall to expand due to external pressure or massive crushing trauma.

traumatic brain injury physical trauma to the brain; can be localized or diffuse.

traumatologist a surgeon who specializes in trauma care.

Trendelenburg position a position in which the patient’s head is lowered 15–30 degrees (below the level of the heart) while the feet are simultaneously raised approximately 15–30 degrees; is generally used for patients who are in shock.

triage a process of prioritizing patients for treatment and transportation based on their clinical signs and symptoms.

tripod position a position in which a patient sits upright and leans forward onto outstretched arms; the head and chin are thrust forward in an attempt to keep the airway open.

tuberculosis (TB) an infectious bacterial disease, caused by the tubercle bacillus (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*), that most commonly causes inflammation and calcification within the respiratory system and may infect other body organs.

two track skiing the use of two skis only by an adaptive skier; can include the use of adaptive equipment such as tethers and ski bras.

two-person assist a method in which two rescuers (on each side) assist a patient to move down a slope or trail in the same manner used in the human crutch.

U

ultraviolet keratitis see *snow blindness*.

ultraviolet radiation waves of solar energy that are beneficial in small amounts but harmful to the skin and eyes upon overexposure.

umbilical cord the fetal structure containing the blood vessels that carry blood to and from the placenta.

umbilicus the navel.

universal dressing sterile, soft, highly absorbent, individually wrapped dressing that provides superior padding and protection for major wounds; usually measures 12 inches by 30 inches; also called *trauma dressing*.

Universal Precautions the use of equipment, including gloves, gowns, masks, and protective eyewear, to prevent the transmission of blood-borne pathogens in any bodily secretion whenever first aid or health care is provided; under Universal Precautions, rescuers *always* consider the blood and body fluids of *any* patient to be potentially infectious.

urgent move prompt transport of a patient whenever the patient’s condition or dangerous location poses an immediate threat to life.

urinary system a group of organs and structures that remove wastes and toxins from the blood and excrete them in urine.

urine fluid waste product of humans that is produced by filtration and secretion of the kidneys.

urticaria hives or rashes that accompany an allergic reaction.

uterus the muscular abdominal female organ in which a fetus develops; the womb.

V

vaccination a process for providing protection against communicable diseases by stimulating the immune system to produce antibodies against that disease; also called immunization.

vaccine a preparation that contains all or part of a disease agent (rendered non-infectious) and is typically administered to an individual to prevent infection with that agent.

vagina the birth canal.

valgus medial (inward) angulation of a bone or joint (toward the midline).

varicella-zoster virus the virus that causes chickenpox and herpes zoster.

varus lateral (outward) angulation of a bone or joint (away from the midline).

vasoconstriction the narrowing of the lumen of a blood vessel.

vasodilation the widening of the lumen of a blood vessel.

ventilation the process by which air moves into and out of the lungs, so that oxygen can be exchanged for carbon dioxide in the alveoli.

ventral on the front of the body.

ventricular fibrillation chaotic and ineffective contraction of the ventricles that leads to cardiac arrest.

ventricular tachycardia rapid contraction of the ventricles that can lead to ineffective blood flow to body tissues and eventually cardiac arrest.

vertebrae (singular: **vertebra**) the 33 bones of the spinal column.

viruses a group of infectious particles, smaller than cells and not generally considered living, many of which cause disease in humans.

visceral nerves a collection of nerves that convey impulses between a part of the central nervous system and a viscus, such as an internal organ in the chest or abdomen.