HIGH THREAT CONSIDERATIONS

I. DEFINITIONS

1. **Hot Zone/Direct Threat Zone:** An area where active threat and active hazards exists.

2. **Warm Zone/Indirect Threat Zone:** An area where security and safety measures are in place. This zone may have potential hazards, but no active danger exists.

3. **Cold Zone/Evacuation Zone:** An area where no significant threat is reasonably anticipated.

II. PATIENT CARE GOALS

1. Assess scene for safety and number of patients.

2. Mitigating further harm.

3. Treat immediate and urgent medical conditions.

4. Assist evacuation.

5. Accomplish goal with minimal additional injuries.

III. PATIENT MANAGEMENT

A. Assessment, Treatment and Interventions

1. **Hot Zone/Direct Threat Care Considerations:**
   
a. Defer in depth medical interventions if engaged in ongoing direct threat (e.g. active shooter, unstable building collapse, improvised explosive device, hazardous material threat).
   
b. Threat mitigation techniques will minimize risk to patients and providers.
   
c. Rapid primary triage as required
   
d. Prioritization for extraction is based on resources available and the situation.
   
e. Minimal interventions are warranted.
   
f. Encourage patients to provide self-first aid or instruct aid from uninjured bystander.
   
g. Consider hemorrhage control:
      
i. Tourniquet application is the primary “medical” intervention to be considered in Hot Zone/Direct Threat.
      
ii. Consider instructing patient to apply direct pressure to the wound if no tourniquet available (or application is not feasible).
h. Consider quickly placing or directing patient to be placed in position to protect airway, if not immediately moving patient.

2. **Warm Zone/Indirect Threat Care Considerations:**
   a. Maintain situational awareness
   b. Ensure safety of both responders and patients by rendering environment safe
   c. Conduct primary survey, per the General Trauma Management protocol, and initiate appropriate life saving interventions:
      i. Hemorrhage control:
         1. Tourniquet;
         2. Wound packing if feasible.
      ii. Maintain airway and support ventilation per Advanced Airway Management procedure.
   d. Do not delay patient extraction and evacuation for non-life-saving interventions.
   e. Consider establishing a casualty collection point (CCP) if multiple patients are encountered.
   f. Unless in a fixed casualty collection point, triage in this phase of care should be limited to the following categories:
      i. Uninjured and/or capable of self-extraction;
      ii. Deceased/expectant;
      iii. All others.

3. **Cold Zone/Evacuation Zone:**
   a. Reassess all interventions applied in previous phases of care
   b. Additional trauma treatment and transport per Region 11 EMS Protocols and Policies.
   c. Additional medical or transport resources may be staged in this area.

C. **Patient Safety Considerations**

1. Anticipate unique threats based on situation.

2. During high threat situations, provider safety should be considered in balancing the risks and benefits of patient treatment.

IV. **NOTES/EDUCATIONAL PEARLS**

A. **Key Considerations**

1. In high threat situations, risk assessment should be performed and regularly re-evaluated. Provider and patient safety will need to be simultaneously considered.

2. During high threat situations, an integrated response with other public safety entities may be warranted.
3. During these situations, maintaining communications and incident management concepts may be crucial to maximizing efficiency and mitigating dangers.