



Amherst Fire District Procedure

Obstructed Airway

Clinical Indications:

- Fully or partially obstructed airway.

Procedure:

- If the patient is conscious use abdominal thrusts “Heimlich Maneuver” until the obstruction is clear, or the patient becomes unconscious.
- If the patient becomes unconscious gently lower the patient to the ground and straddle them using the “Heimlich Maneuver”. (***Remember to reference AHA 2015 guidelines for a choking victim.***)
- If an obstruction cannot be dislodged, use a laryngoscope and McGill forceps to look inside the patient’s mouth and manually remove the obstruction.

Certification Requirements:

- Successfully complete an annual skill evaluation inclusive of the indications, contraindications, technique, and possible complications of the procedure.

Note:

- Only trained individuals EMT-B and higher may use a McGill forceps and laryngoscope to perform advanced airway obstruction clearing techniques.