



PREVENT HYPOTHERMIA

GEORGIA TRAUMA SYSTEM TRAUMA CARE ALERT

TRAUMA AND HYPOTHERMIA ARE A DEADLY COMBINATION

The lethal trauma triad—hypothermia, acidosis, and coagulopathy—is a significant cause of death in patients with traumatic injuries. Failing to stop any one of the triad's components leads to worsening hemorrhage and eventual death.

- **Stop the Bleeding**
- **Keep ambulances and resuscitation rooms warm**
- **Remove any wet clothing**
- **Cover patients with blankets and other warming devices**
- **Expose patients ONLY as needed for assessment and treatment**
- **Warm ALL IV fluids and blood products**
- **DO NOT infuse large volumes of crystalloid fluids***

*Generally, burn patients are the ONLY trauma patients who require large volumes of crystalloid fluids. Warm ALL IV fluids - burn trauma patients are especially susceptible to hypothermia.

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