



# Warning: Hot Coffee!

## Human Trafficking

No. HC-2012-1 February 2, 2012

**Learning Objective:** The student shall be able to recognize the signs of human trafficking.

**H**uman trafficking is a crime and a human rights abuse involving commercial sexual exploitation of a child or the use of force, coercion, or fraud to compel someone into labor servitude or commercial sexual exploitation. Thousands of men, women, and children are trafficked in the United States every year. Many of these victims are lured from their homes with false promises of well-paying jobs; instead, they are forced into prostitution, involuntary domestic servitude, farm or factory labor, or other types of forced labor.

Approximately one-third of human trafficking victims are treated by medical providers. Similar to observing patients for signs of abuse, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) responders should be aware of the signs of human trafficking.

### Trafficking Indicators

- Is the victim in possession of identification and travel documents; if not, who has control of the documents?
- Was the victim coached on what to say to law enforcement and immigration officials?
- Was the victim recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in some other job?
- Is the victim's salary being garnished to pay off a smuggling fee? (Paying off a smuggling fee alone is not considered trafficking.)
- Was the victim forced to perform sexual acts?
- Does the victim have freedom of movement?
- Has the victim or family been threatened with harm if the victim attempts to escape?
- Has the victim been threatened with deportation or law enforcement action?
- Has the victim been harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care, or other life necessities?
- Can the victim freely contact friends or family?
- Is the victim a juvenile engaged in commercial sex?
- Is the victim allowed to socialize or attend religious services?

When observing patients or incidents with these signs of human trafficking, responders should notify local law enforcement or call (866) 347-2423 anytime.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has a variety of human trafficking resources, including specific resources for the fire and EMS community. To request these materials, visit the DHS Web site at [www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking](http://www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking)



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