The purpose of the primary survey is to identify and immediately correct life-threatening problems.

**SCENE SIZE-UP / GLOBAL ASSESSMENT:**

* Recognize hazards, ensure safety of scene and secure a safe area for treatment.
* Apply appropriate universal body/substance isolation precautions.
* Identify number of patients and whether additional resources are needed
* Observe position of patient and determine chief complaint or mechanism of injury.
* Plan strategy to protect evidence at potential crime scene.

**GENERAL IMPRESSION:**

* Check for life threatening conditions.
* AVPU (**A**=alert, **V**=responds to verbal stimuli, **P**=responds to painful stimuli, **U**=unresponsive).

**AIRWAY:**

* Ensure open airway.
* Protect spine from unnecessary movement in patients at risk for spinal injury.
* Look and listen for evidence of upper airway problems and potential obstructions:
* Utilize any appropriate adjuncts as indicated to maintain airway.

**BREATHING:**

* Assess for breathing.
* Intervention for inadequate ventilation and/or oxygenation using approved adjuncts as indicated.

**CIRCULATION:**

Check for pulse. If no pulse, begin CPR and/or defibrillate while following appropriate cardiac arrest protocols.

* Control life-threatening hemorrhage.