

E13 DROWNING / DIVING ACCIDENT

KEY QUESTIONS	PRE ARRIVAL INSTRUCTIONS
Is this a diving accident?	Support the airway and neck, if safe, keep patient in the water
Is the patient out of the water? Type of water? (bath tub, pool, river or lake)	YES: Go to next question No: If safe to do so and not a diving accident: Remove from water Remember neck injuries with dives and water accidents
Is patient Breathing?	Yes: Turn patient on left side No: if not breathing normally start CPR

INCIDENT TYPES		
Drowning or near Drowning in any body of water -IF- The patient(s) is/are out of the water	DROWN F	Examples: Raft, canoe or other water craft seen in the river w/ no person associated with it is a water recovery and would be referred to law enforcement. A person that is not injured, but is stranded on a rock or far shoreline and unable to make it safely back to thier party is a water assist and would be referred to law enforcement. A person that is <u>in the water</u> and is injured or is unable to make it to safety would be a water rescue and fire/EMS is sent
Drowning or near Drowning in bathtub, pool or similar	DROWN F	
Open Water Rescue with injuries	H2O RESCUE F	
Open Water Rescue NO injuries/NO life hazard - Stranded	H2O ASSIST - Police incident	
Open Water - Body or Evidence Recovery	H2O RECOVERY - Police incident	

SECONDARY QUESTIONS	PRE ARRIVAL INSTRUCTIONS
Nausea or Vomiting?	Turn patient on side and keep warm
SCUBA Diving?	Place patient on <u>LEFT SIDE</u> , with head <u>LOWER</u> then feet.

CALL BACK IF ANYTHING CHANGES

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Near Drowning

- Aspiration of even small amounts of fresh or salt water into the lungs can be fatal

Emergency Care

- Immediate artificial ventilation [CPR](#) if no respirations, refer to appropriate [CPR](#) card

Water Rescue

Slow vs. Fast water
Caller should not take risks

- Only if safe to do so
 - Throw patient a rope
 - Reach for the patient
 - Row boat to patient, only if safe to do so
- Do not swim to patient unless trained in water rescue and safe to do so
- Think neck injury if injured after diving into the water

Compressed Air Diving Problems, (SCUBA) Signs and Symptoms

- Air Embolism/Bends
- Blotching, mottling of the skin
- Chest Pain
- Difficulty Breathing
- Difficulty Speaking
- Frothing at nose and mouth
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Paralysis and/or Coma
- Severe pain in muscles, joints or abdomen

NOTE:

Air Embolism occurs immediately upon returning to the surface. Bends can occur several hours later.

NOTE:

Is this a potential Crime Scene?