

# ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES

## E – 2 / HYPOTHERMIA / FROSTBITE

### PRIORITIES

- ABCs
- Maintain airway, provide oxygen and ventilatory support PRN
- Remove from offending environment
- FROSTBITE TREATMENT: Wrap affected extremity with thick, warm blankets or clothing. Do NOT rub or otherwise attempt active rewarming.
- Early Transport;
- **EARLY CONTACT OF RECEIVING HOSPITAL.**

**Reviewed**

**JULY 2006**

### PATIENT TREATMENT GUIDELINES

- Stabilize airway; handle gently.
- Move patient to a sheltered area, minimizing physical exertion or movement of the patient;
- Cut away wet clothing and cover patient with warm, dry sheets or blankets;
- **OXYGEN** therapy – Be prepared to support ventilations using appropriate airway adjuncts. If spontaneous respirations are present, intubate only if absolutely necessary to prevent aspiration or if ventilations are inadequate;
- **CARDIAC MONITOR.** Observe for organized rhythm and pulses for one minute. If organized rhythm present, move quickly but gently to warm environment. If in asystole or ventricular fibrillation, begin chest compressions and treat per specific cardiac protocols;
- **IV** Access and 250 cc fluid challenge if indicated; repeat vital signs; if BP <100 systolic, repeat Bolus.
- **CONTACT BASE PHYSICIAN FOR ADDITIONAL ORDERS.**

### DISRUPTED COMMUNICATIONS

**In the event that a Solano County EMT-P is UNABLE to make physician contact for orders, the paramedic MAY NOT utilize those areas of the protocol needing physician direction and MUST TRANSPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE CLOSEST FACILITY.**