

TREATMENT:

- A. Treat per Universal Patient Care.
- B. If there is any doubt as to mechanism of injury or any possibility of cervical injury, immobilize patient and consider Trauma System entry.
- C. If indicated, treat per Hypothermia protocol.
- D. If patient is in cardiac arrest, do not attempt resuscitation if patient has been submerged for more than 30 minutes, with the following exceptions:
Resuscitation may be initiated if the patient is recovered within 60 minutes if:
 1. Children < 6 years of age and water temperature at recovery depth of < 40 deg F.
 2. Patients who may have been trapped in an underwater air pocket.
 3. Water temperature at recovery depth is < 40 deg F and information suggests that patient may have been swimming on the surface for at least 15 minutes prior to becoming submerged.
 4. Paramedic discretion (contact OLMC)
- E. All near-drowning victims should be examined by a physician.

NOTES & PRECAUTIONS:

- A. If patient is still in the water rescue should be performed by properly trained and equipped personnel only.
- B. Be prepared to manage vomiting.
- C. Even if patient initially appears fine, delayed pulmonary edema is likely to occur.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

Medical history, length of submersion, water temperature at recovery depth, medications and allergies, events prior to submersion