

OPERATIONS: BLS/ALS TREATMENT PROTOCOLS

DATE: Rev. 4/16/12

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES

POLICY NUMBER: 9190

<u>BLS</u>	<u>ALS</u>
<p>Remove patient from hostile environment Ensure patent airway Give oxygen and/or ventilate prn. Monitor O2 saturation prn. <b><u>COLD EXPOSURE:</u></b> Remove wet clothing Handle patient gently and avoid unnecessary movement Institute gentle warming with blankets or warm packs Do not apply heat directly to the skin or rub the injured areas Apply dressings to blistered or necrotic areas Prolonged CPR may be indicated If alert, give warm fluids; if altered LOC - NPO <b><u>HEAT EXHAUSTION:</u></b> Loosen or remove clothing Cool gradually (spraying with tepid water and fanning); avoid shivering If conscious and no nausea, give small amounts of cool liquids <b><u>HEAT STROKE:</u></b> Rapid cooling: remove clothing Ice packs to axillae, groin, cervical area (avoid pressure on carotids) Flush or spray with tepid water, fan patient Avoid shivering *Perilaryngeal Airway may only be utilized by authorized EMT-I, or Advanced EMT, who have EMT-I Optional Skill Accreditation.</p>	<p>Monitor ECG/Monitor O2 saturation prn. <b>SO</b> Establish Saline lock/IV prn. <b>SO</b> Insert ETT/Perilaryngeal Airway prn. <b>SO</b> EtCO2 monitoring (Waveform Capnography 35 - 45 mm/Hg) prn. <b><u>HEAT EXHAUSTION/STROKE:</u></b> <b>SO</b> Consider fluid challenge of 500 mL NS (if clear lungs) May repeat per SO, limit 2 liters  <b><u>HYPOTHERMIA (with cardiac arrest)</u></b> <b>SO</b> Hold medications <b>SO</b> Provide CPR prn. <b>SO</b> For severe hypothermia limit shock to 1, and no medications  <b><u>PEDIATRIC NOTE:</u></b> <b>SO</b> Establish Saline lock/IV prn. <b>SO</b> Normal Saline 20 mL/kg initial bolus via Volutrol; may repeat per BH</p>

APPROVAL:



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