

NEAR DROWNING / DROWNING

With near-drowning or drowning, always look for associated problems such as airway obstruction, cardiac arrest, heart attack, hypothermia, or substance abuse. Also be alert to associated injuries especially to the head and neck. **DO NOT** attempt a rescue in which you must enter deep water or swim unless trained to do so.

- A. Remove patient from water as rapidly as possible while protecting C-spine.
- B. Perform **Initial Treatment / Universal Patient Care Protocol** and follow the proper protocol for medical management based on clinical presentation.
- C. If cold water drowning (less than 70° F at recovery depth), refer to **Cold Exposure Protocol 6503**.
- D. Expedite transport and notify **Medical Command**. Request ALS backup.

Note:

1. If patient is unconscious, assume spinal injury and fully immobilize patient on long backboard.
2. If confirmed cold water drowning, **Cease-Efforts Protocol 9102** should not be instituted unless patient has been rewarmed as **per MCP order**.

