

e-5 - DROWNING/NEAR DROWNING

PRIORITIES:

- ABCs
- Treat hypoxia
- Protect C-Spine
- Minimize time at scene
- Full arrest should be stabilized at scene
- Assure an advanced life support response
- Consider associated trauma to C-Spine to be present until proven otherwise

Drowning

Loss of consciousness in water, no in full arrest

1. Treat as **CARDIOPULMONARY ARREST**, with considerations for hypothermia and spinal precautions.

Near Drowning

Loss of consciousness in water, NOT in full arrest.

1. Ensure a patent airway (suction as necessary)
2. Be prepared to support ventilation with appropriate airway adjuncts and **OXYGEN THERAPY** as appropriate;
3. Protect the cervical spine, if neck injury suspected;
4. Anticipate vomiting. Take precautions against aspiration; be prepared for suctioning;
5. Remove wet clothing; keep patient warm and dry;
6. Monitor vital signs frequently;
7. Assist advanced life support personnel with patient packaging and movement to ambulance.