

ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES

BLS PROCEDURES

ALWAYS USE BODY SUBSTANCE ISOLATION PRECAUTIONS

INDICATION

- For the following environmental emergencies:
 - Near Drowning
 - Bites/ Stings (animal/ snake)
 - Heat Injuries
 - Cold Injuries
 - Localized cold injuries

EQUIPMENT

- Airway management per patient condition
- BP monitor
- Suction
- Dressings
- Cold packs
- Hot packs

PROCEDURE

- BLS RMC
- **Near Drowning**
 - Consider C-spine precautions
 - Keep patient warm
 - Prepare to log-roll if vomiting occurs
 - Frequent evaluation of lung sounds
- **Bites/ Stings**
 - Restrict patient physical activity
 - Immobilize extremity
 - Apply cold pack to site
 - Advise patient to self-administer Bee Sting Kit or responder to use **EpiPen** as per policy
 - Watch for allergic reactions and refer to Medical Emergencies Procedures BLS PR 6
- **Animal Bites**
 - Apply appropriate dressing
 - Re-evaluate size of swelling every 5-10 minutes
- **Snake Bites**
 - Do not use ice
 - Apply constricting bands above & below injury site
- **Heat Injuries**
 - Limit patient physical activity
 - Remove clothing
 - Splash/ sponge with cool water
 - Small amounts of H₂O by mouth
 - Do not over-cool patient
 - If ALOC with dry skin, apply cold packs and wet towels to neck, axilla & inguinal areas; rapid transport with air conditioning.

- **Cold Injuries**

- Remove wet clothing and patient from cold environment
- Apply warming measures with blankets, heaters, etc. If patient is no longer shivering be less aggressive with re-warming efforts and minimize stimulation of patient.

- **Localized Cold Injuries**

- Gently remove clothing from injured area
- Cover area with sterile dressing
- Avoid direct contact with affected area