

## Appendix 9: Diving Emergency Management Procedures

### Introduction

A diving accident victim could be any person who has been breathing air underwater regardless of depth. It is essential that emergency procedures are pre-planned and that medical treatment is initiated as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of each AAUS organizational member to develop procedures for diving emergencies including evacuation and medical treatment for each dive location.

### General Procedures

1. If the patient's condition is life threatening or urgent, call the local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) or U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) for transport to the nearest medical treatment facility.
2. If the patient is not breathing, start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as needed using a manually triggered ventilator (MTV) or bag-type oxygen resuscitator.
3. If the patient is breathing, but unconscious, place the victim in the recovery position and administer oxygen using a non-rebreather or demand type mask.
4. If the patient is awake and alert, place the patient in a position of comfort and administer 100% oxygen using a demand oxygen resuscitator or non-rebreather type mask.
5. If the patient is being transported, contact the front desk of your diving location to notify of incident and to have someone direct EMS to your location or assign someone in your group that task, if available.
6. Conduct a roll call (see diving roster) and recall divers from water if necessary.
7. If the patient's condition is not urgent, contact the TAMUG DSO (approved dive plan) for guidance or transport to nearest urgent care. If unable to reach the DSO within 15 minutes, contact the Divers' Alert Network (DAN).
8. Use the DAN Dive Accident Management Field Reference Guide (DAN slates located in O2 kit) to document a neurological exam and dive history information.
9. Gather additional information about the incident and prepare the patient for transport.
10. Secure the diver's gear for inspection. DO NOT DISASSEMBLE GEAR OR EXHAUST AIR FROM THE SYSTEM. Close the cylinder valve ONLY. Count and record number of turns required to secure the valve.
11. Call and speak to the TAMUG DSO (approved dive plan) to report the incident. If unable to reach the appropriate DSO, use the call list in the emergency numbers section to reach the next appropriate point of contact. Continue calling until live-voice contact is made. Speak to a person, don't just leave a message.
12. Document the incident on paper to be turned into the TAMUG DSO.

### List of Emergency Contact Numbers Appropriate For Dive Location

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### Available Procedures

- Emergency care
- Recompression
- Evacuation

### Emergency Plan Content

- Name, telephone number, and relationship of person to be contacted for each diver in the event of an emergency.
- Nearest operational decompression chamber.
- Nearest accessible hospital.
- Available means of transport.