

	COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY	Document #	8028.15
	PROGRAM DOCUMENT: Environmental Emergencies	Draft Date:	06/14/96
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EMS Medical Director

EMS Administrator

Purpose:

- A. To establish the treatment standard for prehospital personnel treating patients suffering from environmental emergencies.

Authority:

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9

Protocol:

Frostbite:

BLS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supplemental O₂ as necessary to maintain SpO₂ ≥ 94%. Use lowest concentration and flow rate of O₂ as possible. 2. Airway adjuncts as needed. 3. Remove wet/frozen clothing and place patient in a warm environment. 4. Assess area of frostbite; check circulation, sensation and movement of extremities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not rub-protect from further trauma, contamination, or moisture 5. Transport in position of comfort.

Hypothermia:

BLS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supplemental O₂ as necessary to maintain SpO₂ ≥ 94%. Use lowest concentration and flow rate of O₂ as possible. 2. Airway adjuncts as needed. 3. Assess for trauma 4. Place in a warm environment, remove wet clothes; re-warm with warm clothes and blankets. 5. Handle patients with care, sudden jarring of patients may precipitate cardiac arrest. <p>*If in cardiac arrest perform CPR until patient can be warmed in hospital. *</p>
ALS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advanced airway adjuncts as needed. 2. Cardiac Monitoring 3. Consider vascular access. 4. Monitor and reassess. 5. If in cardiac arrest refer to policy 8031. 6. Transport

Hyperthermia:

BLS	
1.	Supplemental O ₂ as necessary to maintain SpO ₂ ≥ 94%. Use lowest concentration and flow rate of O ₂ as possible.
2.	Airway adjuncts as needed.
3.	Place patient in a cool area and remove clothing as appropriate.
4.	Transport
If sweating is absent, proceed with cooling patients as rapidly as possible (cool packs on neck, in axilla and inguinal areas; fanning and misting, if possible, undress patient, cover with sheet and wet thoroughly.)	
ALS	
1.	Advanced airway adjuncts as needed.
2.	Consider vascular access.
3.	Cardiac Monitoring
4.	Transport

Near Drowning:

BLS	
1.	Supplemental O ₂ as necessary to maintain SpO ₂ ≥ 94%. Use lowest concentration and flow rate of O ₂ as possible.
2.	Airway adjuncts as needed.
3.	Consider Spinal Motion Restriction (SMR) per policy 8044
2.	Transport
ALS	
1.	*Follow appropriate protocol*
2.	*Body temperature criteria shall not be used as criteria for declaring death.*

Snake Bite:

BLS	
1.	Supplemental O ₂ as necessary to maintain SpO ₂ ≥ 94%. Use lowest concentration and flow rate of O ₂ as possible.
2.	Airway adjuncts as needed.
3.	Assess site of wound for swelling redness from stings/bites.
4.	Immobilize affected extremity at or slightly below the level of the heart.
5.	Keep patient at rest.
6.	Transport
7.	Pre-alert receiving hospital of possible need for antivenom if moderate to severe venomous snake bite is noted.
NOTE: If the patient is experiencing signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, treat per PD# 8001 – Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis.	

<u>Degree of Envenomation</u>	<u>Presentation</u>
None	Punctures or abrasions; some pain or tenderness at the bite.
Mild	Pain, tenderness, edema at the bite; perioral paresthesias may be present.
Moderate	Pain, tenderness, erythema, edema beyond the area adjacent to the bite; often, systemic manifestations and mild coagulopathy.
Severe	Intense pain and swelling of entire extremity, often with severe systemic signs and symptoms; coagulopathy
Life-threatening	Marked abnormal signs and symptoms; severe coagulopathy
*DO NOT APPLY ICE OR TOURNIQUET TO SITE *	
*DO NOT BRING DEAD SNAKE TO THE HOSPITAL, TAKE A PICTURE IF POSSIBLE *	
ALS	
1. *Assess for anaphylaxis and treat per PD# 8001*	

Stings / Bites:

BLS	
1.	Supplemental O ₂ as necessary to maintain SpO ₂ ≥ 94%. Use lowest concentration and flow rate of O ₂ as possible.
2.	Airway adjuncts as needed.
3.	Assess skin for swelling, redness and rash. If extremity, check distal circulation, sensation and movement
4.	Keep affected extremities at level of heart and immobilize.
5.	Transport
Apply ice for insect bite, not snake bites.	
NOTE: If the patient is experiencing signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, treat per PD# 8001 – Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis.	
ALS	
1. *Assess for anaphylaxis and treat per PD# 8001 – Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis*	

Cross Reference: PD# 8001 – Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis
 PD# 8031 – Cardiac Arrest
 PD# 8038 – Shock
 PD# 8044 - Spinal Motion Restriction (SMR)