

Drowning / Decompression Illness (Adult and Pediatric)**CFR AND ALL PROVIDER LEVELS**

1. Remove patient from water.
 - a. Observe spinal injury precautions; if appropriate.
2. ABCs and vital signs.
3. Airway management.
4. Assist ventilations if appropriate (see the Respiratory Distress / Failure / Acute Pulmonary Edema (Adult), or Respiratory Distress / Failure / Arrest (Pediatric) protocol).
5. Begin CPR if patient is in cardiac arrest (see the General Cardiac Arrest Care (Non-Traumatic) (Adult) protocol).
6. Administer oxygen.
7. Assess for shock and treat, if appropriate (see the Shock / Sepsis (Adult), or Shock / Sepsis (Pediatric) protocol).
8. **If Cold Water Drowning (water temperature below 70°F), treat for hypothermia (See the Cold Emergencies (Adult and Pediatric) protocol).**

● CFR STOP**EMT**

9. For suspected decompression illness (dive injury):
 - a. Place the patient in a **LEFT** lateral recumbent position.
 - b. If possible, obtain the following information:
 - i. Recent dive history
 - ii. The maximum depth of the dive(s)
 - iii. The total time spent underwater
 - iv. The mixture of compressed gases used
 - c. Transport the patient and companion divers via ground transportation to the nearest appropriate hospital (See Appendix H.)
10. Transport

● EMT STOP**Paramedic****● Paramedic STOP****Key Points / Considerations**

1. Hypothermic patients remain viable for a longer period of time, therefore, if appropriate, initiate CPR.