

	<b>COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO</b> EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY	Document #	8028.13
	<u>PROGRAM DOCUMENT:</u> <b>Environmental Emergencies</b>	Draft Date:	06/14/96
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 EMS Medical Director

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 EMS Administrator

**Purpose:**

- A. To serve as the treatment standard for prehospital personnel in 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:**

A. **Frostbite:**

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

B. **Hypothermia:**

<b>BLS</b>	
I.	Supplemental O2 as necessary to maintain SpO2 ≥ 94%. Use lowest concentration and flow rate of O2 as possible.
II.	Airway adjuncts as needed.
III.	Assess for trauma
IV.	Place in a warm environment, remove wet clothes; re-warm with warm clothes and blankets.
V.	Handle patients with care, sudden jarring of patients may precipitate cardiac arrest.
*If in cardiac arrest perform CPR until patient can be warmed in hospital. *	

<b>ALS</b>	
I.	Advanced airway adjuncts as needed.
II.	Cardiac Monitoring
III.	Consider vascular access.
IV.	Monitor and reassess.
V.	If in cardiac arrest refer to policy 8031.
VI.	Transport

**VI. Hyperthermia:**

<b>BLS</b>	
I.	Supplemental O2 as necessary to maintain SpO2 ≥ 94%. Use lowest concentration and flow rate of O2 as possible.
II.	Airway adjuncts as needed.
III.	Place patient in a cool area and remove clothing as appropriate.
<p>* 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.)*</p>	
IV.	Transport

<b>ALS</b>	
I.	Advanced airway adjuncts as needed.
II.	Consider vascular access.
III.	Cardiac Monitoring
IV.	Transport

**V. Near Drowning:**

<b>BLS</b>	
II.	Supplemental O2 as necessary to maintain SpO2 ≥ 94%. Use lowest concentration and flow rate of O2 as possible.
II.	Airway adjuncts as needed.
III.	Consider Spinal Motion Restriction (SMR) per policy 8044
IV.	Transport

<b>ALS</b>	
*Follow appropriate protocol*	
*Body temperature criteria shall not be used as criteria for declaring death.*	
Cross Reference:	Spinal Motion Restriction (SMR) PD# 8044

**VI. Snake Bite:**

<b>BLS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Supplemental O2 as necessary to maintain SpO2 ≥ 94%. Use lowest concentration and flow rate of O2 as possible.</li> <li>II. Airway adjuncts as needed.</li> <li>III. Assess site of wound for swelling redness from stings/bites.</li> <li>IV. Immobilize affected extremity at or slightly below the level of the heart.</li> <li>V. Keep patient at rest.</li> <li>VI. Transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Do not apply ice or tourniquet to site*</li> <li>*Do NOT bring dead snake to the hospital, take a picture if possible*</li> </ul>
<b>ALS</b>	
*Assess for anaphylaxis and treat per policy 8001*	

**VII. Stings / Bites:**

<b>BLS</b>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Supplemental O2 as necessary to maintain SpO2 ≥ 94%. Use lowest concentration and flow rate of O2 as possible.</li> <li>II. Airway adjuncts as needed.</li> <li>III. Assess skin for swelling, redness and rash. If extremity, check distal circulation, sensation and movement</li> <li>IV. Keep affected extremities at level of heart and immobilize.</li> <li>V. Transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Apply ice for insect bite, not snake bites.*</li> </ul>								
<b>ALS</b>									
*Assess for anaphylaxis and treat per policy 8001*									
Cross Reference:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis</td> <td style="width: 50%;">PD#8001</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cardiac Arrest</td> <td>PD# 8031</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shock</td> <td>PD# 8038</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Decreased Sensorium</td> <td>PD# 8061</td> </tr> </table>	Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis	PD#8001	Cardiac Arrest	PD# 8031	Shock	PD# 8038	Decreased Sensorium	PD# 8061
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