



EMT-Paramedic Treatment Protocol 4505

Environmental Emergencies Near Drowning/Drowning

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With near-drowning or drowning, always look for associated problems such as airway obstruction, cardiac arrest, heart attack, hypothermia, or substance abuse. Also be alert to associated injuries especially to the head and neck. **Do not** attempt a rescue in which you must enter deep water or swim unless trained to do so.

- A. Remove patient from water as rapidly as possible, protecting C-spine.
- B. Perform **TAMP Protocol 4101** in adults or **Peds-TAMP Protocol 4408** in pediatric cases.
- C. If patient has no pulse, perform **CAT** and CPR.
- D. If cold water drowning (<70 degree F at recovery depth), refer to **Cold Exposure Protocol 4503**.
- E. Expedite transport and notify Medical Command.

Special Notes:

1. If patient is unconscious, assume spinal injury and fully immobilize patient on long backboard.
2. If confirmed cold water drowning, **Cease-Efforts Protocol 9102** should not be instituted unless patient has been rewarmed as **per direct MCP order**.

