

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
A Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

Manual	Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number 530.25
Subject	Paramedic Treatment Protocols NEAR-DROWNING	Page 1 of 2
References	Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4 of the California Code of Regulations	Effective Fresno County: 01/15/82 Kings County: 04/10/89 Madera County: 06/15/85 Tulare County: 04/19/05

STANDING ORDERS	
1. Assessment	ABCs
2. Secure Airway	Protect with position, basic airway maneuvers, pharyngeal airway, advanced airway if indicated, assist respirations as needed, suction as needed.
3. Oxygen	Low flow High flow Refer to EMS Policy #530.02.
4. Remove Wet Clothing	Apply dry blankets.
5. Spine Immobilization	Consider with diving accidents.
6. Cardiac Monitor	Treat rhythm if appropriate.
7. Transport	Minimize on scene time.
8. IV Access	Saline lock. LR TKO – Standard Tubing if unstable.
9. Contact Hospital	Per EMS Policy #530.02.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION AND PRIORITIES

1. Assessment – Lung sounds, mental status, possibility of spine trauma.
2. Resuscitate all victims with an unknown down time.
3. If respiratory or mental status is deteriorating, unmanageable airway or concurrent major trauma, minimize time at scene and transport lights/siren. Transport infants as soon as possible since IV access is difficult.
4. Transport all victims who were completely submerged or who experienced coughing after rescue. Their respiratory status may deteriorate rapidly.

Approved By	Daniel J. Lynch (Signature on File at EMS Agency) Jim Andrews, M.D. (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	Revision
EMS Division Manager		04/19/2005
EMS Medical Director		

Subject	Paramedic Treatment Protocols – Near-Drowning	Policy Number 530.25
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5. Further Evaluation:

A. History

1. Time of submersion, water temperature, water quality.
2. Trauma? (Diving, skiing, boating)
3. Intoxication? Drugs, alcohol?

B. Physical Exam

1. Assess carefully for cyanosis or evidence of pulmonary edema.
2. Signs of trauma?
3. Resuscitate all cold water victims (water temperature less than 70°F) with less than one hour submersion.
4. Resuscitate all warm water victims (water temperature greater than 70°F) submerged less than 30 minutes.

NOTE: All lakes, canals, ponding basins, and rivers should be considered as cold water.