

NOAA DIVE ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT PLAN TEMPLATE

- I. Dive Accident Plan: Conscious and Alert Diving Accident Victim
 - A. Evaluate victim's Airway, Breathing, and Circulation (ABCs)
 - B. Put the victim on 100% oxygen using a positive-pressure/demand oxygen resuscitator.
 - C. Call 911 (local EMS) and the U.S. Coast Guard at [LOCATION] at [USCG TELEPHONE NUMBER], or hail them on VHF radio, channel 16, to report the diving accident. The EMS dispatcher will notify land transportation, [NAME OF LOCAL HOSPITAL], and the [NAME OF THE CLOSEST RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER].
 - D. Evaluate the victim and gather additional information about the incident:
 - Perform a 5-minute field neurological examination on the stricken diver
 - Gather as much information about the dive as possible
 - Interview the victim's dive buddy for additional information
 - Secure victim's dive gear for examination (DO NOT DISASSEMBLE GEAR OR EXHAUST ANY AIR FROM THE SYSTEM)
 - E. If decompression sickness is suspected, or any other type of pressure-related injury (arterial gas embolism, pneumothorax, etc.) keep the victim on his/her back (DO NOT RAISE THE VICTIM'S LEGS). Place the victim on his/her side if nauseated or vomiting – keep the airway clear.
 - F. The victim should be transported to [NAME OF LOCAL HOSPITAL] for evaluation. The [NAME OF CLOSEST RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER] is the closest available recompression chamber.
 - If not nauseated and not experiencing altered level of consciousness, give the victim water to drink during transportation to the [NAME OF LOCAL HOSPITAL].
 - Continue oxygen administration
 - Send any and all information about the dive with the victim to the hospital including results of field neurological examination.
 - Keep victim comfortable and observe for shock or change in condition.
 - G. Based on the evaluation by the doctor at [NAME OF LOCAL HOSPITAL], the victim may be transported to the [NAME OF CLOSEST RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER] for treatment.
- II. Dive Accident Plan: Unconscious and Non-Responsive Dive Accident Victim
 - A. Evaluate victim's Airway, Breathing, and Circulation (ABCs)
 - B. Start cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, or rescue breathing using a positive-pressure/demand oxygen resuscitator.

- C. Call 911 (local EMS) and the U.S. Coast Guard at [LOCATION] at [USCG TELEPHONE NUMBER], or hail them on VHF radio, channel 16, to report the diving accident. The EMS dispatcher will notify land transportation, [NAME OF LOCAL HOSPITAL], and the [NAME OF THE CLOSEST RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER].
- D. Evaluate the victim and gather additional information about the incident:
 - Gather as much information about the dive as possible
 - Interview the victim's dive buddy for additional information
 - Secure victim's dive gear for examination (DO NOT DISASSEMBLE GEAR OR EXHAUST ANY AIR FROM THE SYSTEM)
- E. Transport the victim to the harbor closest to the dive site [NAME OF NEAREST HARBOR OR EVACUATION SITE] where a local ambulance should be standing-by to evacuate the victim to [NAME OF LOCAL HOSPITAL] by local ambulance.
- F. If there is a problem transporting the victim to the nearest harbor or if the time delay is significant (>2 hours), call or radio the USCG at [USCG TELEPHONE NUMBER] or VHF – channel 16, to arrange air evacuation of the victim. The USCG air evacuation team will coordinate with [NAME OF LOCAL HOSPITAL].

III. Medical Assistance and Recompression Chamber Contact Information

- A. Before commencing dive operations, the Divemaster will contact the primary recompression chamber to ensure that the chamber is operational and available to receive patients. If the primary chamber is not operational, alternate facilities should be contacted.
- B. Primary recompression chamber facility:
 - [LOCATION]
 - [ADDRESS]
 - [TELEPHONE NUMBER DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS]
 - TELEPHONE NUMBER AFTER HOURS]
- C. Alternate telephone numbers for recompression chambers and medical advice are:
 - [FIRST ALTERNATE & TELEPHONE NUMBER]
 - [SECOND ALTERNATIVE & TELEPHONE NUMBER]
- D. Divers Alert Network
 - [ADDRESS]
 - (919) 684-8111 (24 hour emergency telephone number)