

**OUTLINE SHEET 5.5
SECONDARY SURVEY**

ENABLING OBJECTIVES:

- 4.9 List the procedures for a secondary survey.
- 4.10 Demonstrate secondary survey procedures in a mock trauma (moulage) scenario without injury to personnel or damage to equipment.

SECONDARY SURVEY:

- The Secondary Survey is to be conducted upon completion of the Primary Survey in an in-water rescue situation or once the survivor has been transported to the rescue vehicle in an overland SAR situation.
- Examine the survivor from head to toe by physically touching the body. Visually inspect all body surfaces using a Mini Maglight before palpating and squeezing the body part.
- Remove all of the survivor’s clothing to ensure a thorough assessment. If needed, cover the survivor with a blanket and expose only the areas necessary to complete the survey yet not chill the survivor.
- Rip or cut clothes along a seam to expose injuries.

NOTE

During the Secondary Survey, treat all non life-threatening injuries and burns; and perform splinting as required.

a. Head:

- Look for obvious depressions and bleeding around all areas of the head.
- Gently feel for lumps and soft spots.

b. Eyes:

- Look for foreign matter, unequal pupils, eye movement, and pupillary reaction to the light.

**OUTLINE SHEET 5.5
SECONDARY SURVEY**

- Look for swelling, deformity, and bruising around the eyes.
(_____ – indicates a possible base skull fracture.)

c. Ears:

- Look for blood or cerebrospinal fluid flowing out.
- Look for bruising behind the ears. (_____ – indicates a possible base skull fracture).

d. Nose:

- Look for blood, fluid, or airway obstruction.
- Look for burned nose hairs.

e. Mouth:

- Look for foreign objects.
- Amputated tongue or bleeding in the mouth.
- Fractured or displaced teeth.
- Anything that can cause an airway obstruction.

f. Neck:

- Deviated Trachea or bleeding.

g. Chest:

- Starting at the shoulders, look and palpate across shoulders, collarbones, and sternum.
- Palpate for any broken ribs in front and in back.

h. Abdomen:

- Look for obvious bruising and swelling.

**OUTLINE SHEET 5.5
SECONDARY SURVEY**

- Palpate for tenderness or rigidity, unless an obvious injury is present. If bruising is present, note it and move on.

i. Pelvis:

- Gently squeeze hips to check for deformity or fractures.
- If a pelvic fracture is suspected and has not been splinted, splint at this point.

j. Arms:

- Cut and remove clothing.
- Look and feel for broken bones, deformity and swelling.
- Have the survivor simultaneously squeeze your fingers with both his hands to check for equal strengths and sensations.
- Do not check for strengths if a fracture is suspected.
- If a splint is required, perform splinting of the extremity as you come to it.

k. Legs:

- Cut and remove clothing.
- Look and feel for broken bones, deformity and swelling.
- Have the survivor simultaneously push against your hands (GAS PEDALS) with both feet to check for equal strengths and sensations.
- Do not check for strengths if a fracture is suspected.
- If a splint is required, perform splinting of the extremity as you come to it.

l. Back:

- In an in-water rescue situation, if bleeding from the back is identified, log roll the survivor and examine for any abnormalities. Treat appropriately.

**OUTLINE SHEET 5.5
SECONDARY SURVEY**

SHOCK POSITION: treat for the worst injury.

- _____: Use this shock position unless injuries preclude it.
- _____: Used for head or eye injury; flail chest; internal bleeding (bruising) of the torso, abdomen, or pelvis.
- _____: Used for something going into or coming out of the abdomen. May utilize one knee bent if a fracture exists in the other leg.
- Side down:
 - a. Left side down: Used for compressed air injuries and a left side open or closed chest wound.
 - b. Right side down: Used for a right side open or closed chest wound.
- _____: Medical emergencies such as: heart attack, stroke, or shortness of breath.

HELICOPTER AIRCRAFT

COMMANDER (HAC) REPORT: used to inform the HAC of the survivor’s condition. Pertinent information to be passed on to the medical facility should include:

- Approximate age.
- Gender
- Level of Consciousness (fully, semi, or unconscious).
- Approximate weight
- What happened; Victim of a --- (describe the incident)
- List of injuries, starting from the head, include cervical collar (if applied), state if CPR or Rescue Breathing was performed, state the injury, bandage applied, and splint used.
- _____ - Initial and others if taken.
- Shock Position

**OUTLINE SHEET 5.5
SECONDARY SURVEY**

- List of any known allergies
- Any medication taken
- Blood Type (A+, A-, B+, B-, AB+, AB-, O+, O-).

NOTE

If allergies, medications, and /or blood type are not known, state that they are “**not known.**” **Do not say “no known.”**

EXAMPLE

I have a 21 year old unconscious male, approximately 175 pounds, victim of a helicopter crash, injuries are as follows...; allergies are (list, if any), patient is on (list medication, if any), Blood type is, breathing is (quality and rate), pulse is (quality and rate), currently in (shock position).

REASSESSMENT:

You should reassess your survivor’s condition every 5 minutes (at a minimum) until arrival at a treatment facility.