

Surface Rescue Swimmer Course

Secondary Survey LT 5.5

Objective

- List the procedures for a secondary survey.
- 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 a rescue situation, or once the survivor has been transported to the rescue platform.
- 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.

Secondary Survey

- 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.

Secondary Survey

NOTE

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

■ Head

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

Secondary Survey

■ Eyes:

- Look for foreign matter, unequal pupils, eye movement, and pupillary reaction to the light.
- Look for swelling, deformity, and bruising around the eyes (raccoon eyes - indicates a possible base skull fracture).

■ Ears:

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

Secondary Survey

■ Nose

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

■ Mouth

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

Secondary Survey

- Neck

- Deviated Trachea or bleeding.

- Chest

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

Secondary Survey

■ Abdomen

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

■ 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.

Secondary Survey

■ 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.

Secondary Survey

■ 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.

Secondary Survey

- 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.

Shock Position

- Treat for the worst injury.
 - Traditional: Use this shock position unless injuries preclude it.
 - Flat: Used for head or eye injury; flail chest; internal bleeding (bruising) of the torso, abdomen, or pelvis.
 - Knee(s) Bent: Used for something going into or coming out of the abdomen. May utilize one knee bent if a fracture exists in the other leg.

Shock Position

- Side down
 - Left side down: Used for compressed air injuries and a left side open or closed chest wound.
 - Right side down: Used for a right side open or closed chest wound.
- Semi-Seated: Medical emergencies such as: heart attack, stroke, or shortness of breath.

Survivor Status Report

- Used to inform the Boat/Bridge 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)

Helicopter Aircraft Commander (HAC) Report

- 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.
- Pulse: Initial and others if taken
- Shock position
- List of any known allergies
- Any medication taken
- Blood Type (A+, A-, B+, B-, AB+, AB-, O+, O-).

Helicopter Aircraft Commander (HAC) Report

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 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).

Helicopter Aircraft Commander (HAC) Report

- Reassessment

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

Review

- What are the three major points to check during the Secondary Survey?

Non life-threatening injuries

Burns

Perform splinting

Review

- What indicates a possible base skull fracture?

Battle Signs

Review

- What is the shock position for a survivor with head injuries, flail chest, or internal bleeding of the torso?

Flat

