Powell River First Aid Training

Drowning/Near Drowning – Flowchart

Hazards Environment
Mechanism Number
of Patients
Additional Resources

LOC
D
A
B
C
RBS
SKIN
O_2

FINDINGS IN THE STABLE PATIENT
- Conscious, may be confused
- Stable C-spine
- Able to maintain airway and breathing
- Strong radial pulse

FINDINGS IN THE UNSTABLE PATIENT
- Altered LOC or unconscious
- Possible C-spine injury
- Difficulty maintaining airway
- Shortness of breath, noisy or absent respirations
- Weak, rapid, or absent radial pulse
- Cyanosis, seizure activity, chest pain

CRITICAL INTERVENTIONS
- If respirations are inadequate or below 10, assist with BVM
- Use PEPP or CPAP if indicated
- Avoid rough handling
- Maintain body temperature
- Remove wet cloting
- Warm patient in accordance with hypothermia guidelines.

DECISION POINT

STABLE

UNSTABLE

Secondary Survey

Transport

- History
- Vital Signs
- Head to toe

Notify hospital

Transport/notify hospital

Secondary Survey

Monitor vital signs

- History
- Vital Signs
- Head to toe
- Monitor vital signs

PATIENT CARE REPORT/HANDOFF