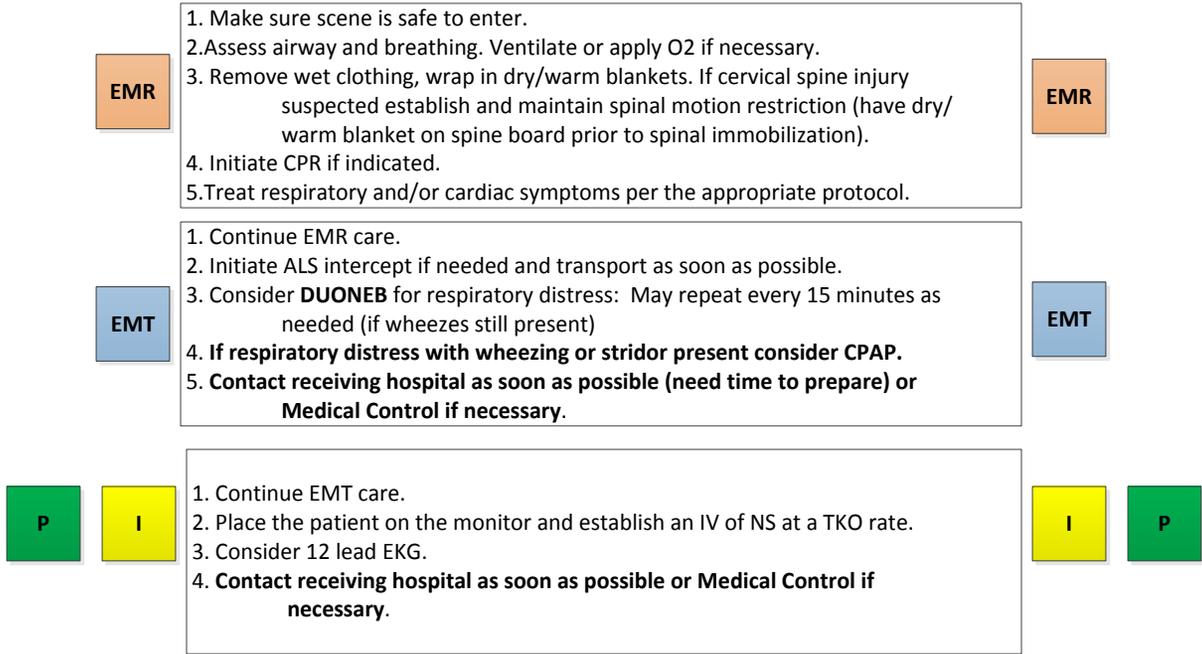


Drowning

- Drowning results from submersion in water or other liquid for a period of time. The time interval of submersion that causes irreversible death is dependent on several factors such as: temperature of the water, the health of the victim, and any trauma suffered during the event. All person submerged 1 hour or less should be vigorously resuscitated in spite of apparent death. Initial care of the drowning victim shall begin in the water (if the victim is still in the water upon arrival of EMS providers).
- **Critical Thinking Elements:**
- All drowning victims should have a complete trauma assessment.
- Have a high index of suspicion for possible spinal injuries. All drowning patients should be immobilized.
- With cold water note time limit (resuscitate all). These patients have an increased chance of survival.
- Some patients may develop delayed respiratory distress.
- All victims should be transported for evaluation due to potential for worsening over the next several hours.

Legend	
	EMR
	EMT
	Intermediate
	Paramedic
	Medical Control

Rescue should only be attempted by rescuers specially trained in water rescue techniques and appropriately equipped.



Note: Refer to "Hypothermia" protocol for cold water drowning