



## Diving Accident Management Procedures

### Introduction

A diving accident victim could be any person who has been breathing air under water regardless of depth. It is essential that emergency procedures are predetermined on the Smithsonian Dive Plan (Appendix B) and that medical treatment is initiated as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the Lead Diver and DO to develop procedures for diving emergencies including evacuation and medical treatment for each dive location.

### General Procedures

Depending on the nature of the diving accident, stabilize the patient, administer 100% oxygen, contact local Emergency Medical System (EMS) for transport to medical facility, contact DO and SDO, as soon as appropriate. Explain the circumstances of the dive incident to the evacuation teams, medics and physicians. Do not assume that they understand why 100% oxygen may be required for the diving accident victim or that recompression treatment may be necessary.

1. Make appropriate contact with victim or rescue as required, followed by victim assessment.
2. Establish (A)irway, (B)reathing, (C)irculation as required.
3. Administer 100% oxygen.
4. Activate Emergency Plan for that dive location to transport victim to nearest medical treatment facility.
5. Call appropriate Diving Officer for contact with diving physician and recompression chamber.
6. Notify SDO or designee according to the Emergency Plan of the Smithsonian facility.
7. Secure diving victim's scuba equipment.
8. Complete and submit Accident Report through the DO to the SDO.

### List of Emergency Contact Numbers Appropriate For Dive Location:

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### Emergency Contact Numbers:

Smithsonian Scientific Diving Officer: (202) 786-2815; fax (202) 357-4048  
Smithsonian Emergency Number: (202) 357-3000  
Divers Alert Network Emergency Number: (919) 684-8111