

Suspected Spinal Injury Management Scenario

Unit Standard 5685 Respond to an emergency at an aquatic facility

Element 1 Identify and explain the signs of people in difficulty in an aquatic facility

Element 2 Apply aquatic rescue techniques in response to a simulated emergency in the water at an aquatic facility

Element 4 Explain and demonstrate, using a simulated situation in an aquatic facility the management of a casualty with a suspected spinal injury

Introduction

Management of a suspected spinal injury requires a range of responses that will depend on the condition of the casualty. Each facility will have a Spinal Injury Management procedure as part of the facility Emergency Action Plan that fits the level of training provided, the usual number of lifeguards and the equipment available. This assessment sets out the minimum evidence requirements to meet the performance criteria for **Unit Standard 5685 Element 4**. It is essential that all candidates are given an opportunity to perform specialist immobilisation techniques, use specialist spinal injury management equipment and recognise and lead the rescue of a casualty with a suspected spinal injury

Assessment Conditions and Instructions

Note: It must be clear to pool customers that this is a simulated situation for the purpose of assessment to prevent any unnecessary distress. The conditions of this assessment may be supplemented or changed to provide for a more complex response such as the use of oxygen therapy if that is the usual practice at the facility.

Casualty Briefing

You are a customer who has sustained a spinal injury through participation in one of the following behaviours: Bombing, shallow diving, play fighting, shoulder rides or clashing heads with another swimmer.

You are to signal to the lifeguard for assistance. When the lifeguard approaches tell him/her you have pain in your neck and shoulders and you need help. Before the lifeguard begins your rescue become unconscious floating face down. Remain unconscious throughout the rescue but make it clear you are breathing. When the lifeguard has secured you to the spinal board and you have been removed from the pool begin to regain consciousness and start coughing. Once the rescue team has tilted the board to clear your airway recover consciousness and complain of pain in your neck and numbness in your arms and hands. Continue to verbalise your distress until the assessor has stopped the scenario.

Candidate Briefing

You are supervising a designated area of the pool. As a member of the team supervising the pool you recognise a customer needs assistance. Respond to the situation you find. Continue with the rescue until you are instructed to stop. You will have back up from at least one other trained lifeguard and one bystander.

Bystander briefing

Be available to assist but only respond to clear instructions given by the candidate who will be the lead rescuer throughout this simulated emergency.

See Suspected Spinal Injury Management assessment in Checklist pages 19, 20, 21.