TR Water Rescue

Victim Management

- Once the patient is located the proper technique should be used to remove that person safely and effectively from the water environment.

- *When packaging a patient for evacuation, protect the patient from:*
  - *Physical Hazards*
  - *Airway Hazards*
  - *Thermal Hazards*

- Victims may be unconscious, or conscious, therefore, the rescuer must remember that they are often placed in the same environment as the victim with the same dangers.

- Care must be taken to make sure that the extrication is conducted safely for both the rescuer as well as the patient.

Lifeguard Technique

- Identify the proper techniques for recovering a spinal injury victim in a Surface Water environment.

- *Immobilize on spineboard prior to removing from water.*

- Approach from the victim's side.

- Position arm on sternum and grasp the victim's jaw line for support.

- Position other arm below victim along spine and grasp the back of the victim's head.

- Compress victim between the rescuers forearms.

- If the victim is in a face down position, the rescuer should submerge and turn victim slowly over to a face-up position.

- Monitor the victim's ABCs.

- Have second rescuer approach from same side and hold victim by both sides of the pelvic area and raise to surface of water.

- Position spine board and secure victim per local protocols.

- Handling of spinal injuries shall be in accordance with the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services guidelines for spinal immobilization and local medical protocols of the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

- Identify the proper techniques for overturning a face down victim in a Surface Water environment when no spinal injury is evident.

- Rescuer approaches from above the victim's head.

- With palm up, grasp victim's wrist with corresponding hand.

- Move back quickly while turning hand palm down to rotate victim's arm and body.

- Place other arm over victim's other arm and under victim's body.

- Rescuer should open victim's airway and monitor the ABC's