

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
 POLICY / PROCEDURE / PROTOCOL**

**Number S-132
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**SUBJECT: TREATMENT PROTOCOL
 DECOMPRESSION ILLNESS / DIVING / ALTITUDE-RELATED INCIDENTS**

Date 07/01/2021

BLS

ALS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% O₂ and/or ventilate PRN • O₂ saturation PRN • Spinal stabilization PRN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor/EKG • IV/IO SO
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Diving victim: A person (including a free-diver) with any symptoms after breathing sources of compressed air below the water's surface

Minor presentation (non-progressive): Minimal localized joint pain, mottling of skin surface, or localized swelling with pain

Major presentation: Symptoms listed above that are severe and/or rapidly progressing, vertigo, altered LOC, progressive paresthesia, paralysis, severe SOB, blurred vision, crepitus, hematemesis, hemoptysis, pneumothorax, trunk pain, or girdle or band-like burning discomfort

Diving victim disposition

Minor presentation

- Major trauma patient: Catchment trauma center
- Non-military patient: Routine
- Active-duty military personnel: Transport to Military Recompression Chamber, if possible. Base Hospital will contact military at (619) 556-7130 to determine chamber location.

Major presentation

- Transport all major presentations to UCSD Hillcrest
- Trauma injuries are secondary in presence of major presentation
- Divert to closest BEF, if airway is unmanageable

Military Recompression Chamber location: Naval Station 32nd Street and Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92136

Note: Obtain dive computer or records, if possible. Hyperbaric chamber must be capable of recompression to 165 feet.