

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

No. S-132
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SUBJECT: TREATMENT PROTOCOL -
 DECOMPRESSION ILLNESS/DIVING/ALTITUDE RELATED INCIDENTS

Date: 07/01/2015

BLS

ALS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% O₂, and/or ventilate prn • O₂ Saturation prn • Spinal stabilization when indicated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor EKG • IV/IO <u>SO</u> adjust prn
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Reference Policy S-415 for Disposition of Diving Victims

Diving Victims: Any victim who has breathed sources of compressed air below the water’s surface and presents with the following:

Minor presentation: minimal localized joint pain, mottling of the skin surface, localized swelling with pain; none of which are progressive.

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.

Disposition of Diving Victims:

Major presentation:

All patients with a “major” presentation should be transported to UCSD-Hillcrest
 Trauma issues are secondary in the presence of a “Major” presentation
 If the airway is unmanageable, divert to the closest BEF

Minor presentation:

Major trauma candidate – catchment trauma center

Non-military patients – routine

Active Duty Military Personnel – transport to the Military Duty Recompression Chamber if possible. The Base Hospital will contact the Duty Recompression Chamber at (619) 556-7130 to determine chamber location. Paramedics/Base Hospital shall transfer care to Diving Medical Officer (or designee) upon arrival to chamber. Hyperbaric treatment may begin in accordance with military medical protocols.

Naval Hyperbaric chamber locations:

Naval Station 32nd Street and Harbor Drive

Note: If possible, obtain dive computer or records.

Hyperbaric chamber must be capable of recompression to 165 ft.