

The Decision-Making Lifesaving Protocol

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The Decision-Making Lifesaving Protocol

- Is there a problem? And is it safe to get involved?
- Control Breathing
- Shout for 'HELP' or/and notify the emergency services
- Assessment of Situation
 - How many casualties and what is their condition
 - What can help in rescue
 - What will make the rescue more difficult
 - What realistically are the rescuers own abilities?
 - Is rescue from the land possible?
 - Where can I exit the water if it's necessary to enter.
 - Where can I enter the water safely if necessary.
- Make a plan (e.g., casualty priority, rescue sequence)
 - Produce an order and means of rescue for casualties.
- Tell a reliable person the plan (i.e., emergency services or a bystander).
- Put the plan into action (i.e., organise available assistance, carry out rescue)
- Reassess the plan (i.e., as information becomes available, as situation develops)
- Aftercare of casualties (i.e., by others or by rescuer)
- When complete (i.e., evaluated actions, performance and reports to stage services)



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- Why a protocol
 - Protocols have been used for many years
 - In safety conscious industries - airlines
 - Outcomes important industry – medical
- Lifesaving is a safety & outcome critical activity
 - Give a process, direct steps to be taken and information needed
 - Are developed in a calm environment
 - To meet needs and current research



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- Aim of a protocol
 - Protect lifesavers by managing risk
 - Recognise exit strategies as acceptable
 - » Abandonment
 - Improve assessment strategy
 - » Sequence of steps
 - » Key points for decisions
 - » Questions to ask
 - Direct toward simplest rescue
 - Can be developed in calm situation



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– Weaknesses displayed by rescuers

- Ability to handle impact of stress
- Use inappropriate skills
 - Entry method & contact rescue
- Over estimate abilities
- Under estimate risk
 - Need assistance to land & fatalities
- They make the wrong decisions

• Protect rescuers from themselves



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– The Future

- The protocol's use in training
- The protocol's use in real life



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