

# The Decision-Making Lifesaving Protocol

Brendan Donohoe  
Lifesaving Foundation

## 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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## The Decision-Making Lifesaving Protocol

- 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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## The Decision-Making Lifesaving Protocol

- 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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## The Decision-Making Lifesaving Protocol

### – 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 Decision-Making Lifesaving Protocol

### – The Future

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



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