



The Alpine Club of Canada

Ottawa Section

STANDARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROTOCOL

JANUARY 2002

RESCUER'S RESPONSIBILITY

- Act in good faith.
- Get the casualty's permission to render assistance.
- Use reasonable skill and care according to your level of training.
- *Do not attempt procedures outside your level of training and experience.*

IMPORTANT. *DO NOT MOVE THE VICTIM IF HEAD OR SPINAL INJURIES ARE SUSPECTED, UNLESS IMMINENT LIFE-THREATENING HAZARDS NECESSITATE IT.*

1. ACCIDENT SCENE SURVEY

- Quickly evaluate objective hazards
- Act to ensure safety and avoid further casualties

2. INITIAL FIRST AID RESPONSE (PRIMARY SURVEY)

- Check the "ABCDs - Airway, Breathing, Circulation and Disability"
- Stabilize life threatening conditions
- Use latex gloves and, if required, the CPR face shield
- If head or spinal injuries are suspected, stabilize casualty in position found

3. ORGANIZE TEAM PERSONNEL

Overall Emergency Response Leader

- Overall emergency response planning and oversight
- Personnel assignment and tasking
- Communication and coordination with outside rescue agencies

Climbing Safety and Technical Rescue Leader

- Leading technical rescue, if required
- Enforcing safe practices to avoid further incidents
- Establishing anchors and fixed ropes for rescue and evacuation

First Aid Leader

- Coordinate first aid until relieved by professional EMT personnel

4. SECONDARY FIRST AID SURVEY

- Methodically gather information on casualty's condition
- History, vital signs, head-to-toe examination
- First aid for injuries and illnesses found
- Record details in duplicate on accident form
- Provide one copy to EMT personnel and retain the other

5. ON-GOING PATIENT CARE

- Until relieved by EMT personnel
- Protect casualty and rescuers from hypothermia

6. PATIENT EVACUATION

- Assist EMT and rescue personnel

EMERGENCY SCENE MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

YOUR JOB

- Planning, monitoring and controlling the big picture.
- Delegate detailed implementation tasks to others.
- Be sensible, seek advice, delegate wisely but take charge and make decisions.

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

- If outside assistance is required, contact rescue agencies ASAP.
- Single communications focal point - normally yourself.
- No radio/phone comm? Set up a network of “runners” to deliver messages.
- Messages: written, unambiguous, including map marked with accident location.
- Advise accident location, casualty’s state, assistance required, access locations.
- A backboard and patient litter will be required for serious injuries.
- Delegate escorts for rescue personnel or flag access trail.

INVENTORY PERSONNEL

- Inventory experience and training of available personnel.
- Determine personnel needs of other leaders. Make appropriate assignments.
- Assign dysfunctional individuals low-stress tasks away from accident scene.

INVENTORY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

- Inventory ALL first aid kits and assign to First Aid Leader.
- Delegate gathering of insulating foam, clothing and tarps for weather protection.
- Ensure Safety/Technical Leader has necessary ropes and climbing equipment.

REMAIN ON-SITE

- Never leave the accident site yourself.
- Delegate off-site functions to others.

PROTECT THE RESCUERS

- Ensure first aid and rescue personnel do not neglect their own safety.
- Monitor safe technical and first aid practices in the accident area.

ANTICIPATE EVENTS

- Anticipate problems and take appropriate action before the situation worsens.
- Changing weather? Nightfall approaching? Casualty’s condition worsening?
- Emergency shelter required? Send out persons excess to rescue/evacuation needs?

DON’T ASSUME

- Don’t assume individuals know what to do or how to do it.
- Ask clear questions and give clear directions.

TAKE NOTES

- And be prepared to submit a written report soon after the incident is resolved.