

Cold Weather Operations

A-042b

Date

1. Exposure factors
 - a. Wind Speed. See Wind chill chart handout.
 - b. Air Temperature and humidity
 - c. Water Temperature (25 times rate of heat loss, as air)
2. Exertion during exposure has slight affect
3. Immersion or clothing saturation have similar affects.
4. Body core temperature is critical element to life safety. More vital than extremities temperature.
5. Depressants (alcohol) or Stimulants (coffee) affect rate of change, but provide no protection during exposure. Do not give either to a victim.
6. Post exposure warm-up victim with heated dry blankets or bath towels. Provide warm shelter, truck cab or ambulance, heaters on full. Do not rub areas that may be frost bitten. Do not immerse in hot water. Massage extremities gently to improve circulation.
7. EMS will determine if transport to hospital is required. Avoid transport in open vehicle (snowmobile or pickup; wind chill factor). Patient may request release under patient rights.