

Dive Emergency Response Procedures



In the event an individual exhibits signs or symptoms consistent with a SCUBA-related medical emergency, the following procedures are recommended to minimize delays in care and ensure rapid access to advanced medical treatment:

- 1. Activate 911 (or VHF Channel 16),** immediately from the vessel, dive shop, or by contacting the United States Coast Guard Station Destin.
- 2. The vessel should immediately get underway** and proceed directly to Coast Guard Station Destin, where Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel will be staged to receive the patient.
- 3. Administer supplemental oxygen** as soon as possible, if available:
 - 15 liters per minute (LPM) via a non-rebreather mask or simple face mask, or
 - 6 LPM via nasal cannula if no other delivery device is available.
- 4. Provide all appropriate lifesaving care,** including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), defibrillation/shock care as indicated, and maintain the patient's body temperature.
- 5. Document and provide detailed dive information** including dive profiles, depth, bottom time, ascent rates, surface intervals and any repetitive dives. If available, ensure the patient's dive computer accompanies them to the receiving medical facility.
- 6. Transport all diving equipment** belonging to the patient and provide it **to EMS personnel** for evaluation and medical reference.
- 7. Okaloosa County EMS** will operate under current standing medical orders and coordinate with Medical Control and the Divers Alert Network (DAN) to **ensure the highest level of patient care.**
- 8. The patient will be transported by Okaloosa County EMS** to Fort Walton Beach Medical Center Trauma Services.

HCA Florida Fort Walton-Destin Hospital
1000 Marwalt Dr
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547
- 9. The patient will undergo pre-hyperbaric medical evaluation and stabilization,** after which the attending physician will initiate transfer to the appropriate hyperbaric treatment facility.
- 10. An Okaloosa County EMS Command Staff member** will be available at the hospital to assist with coordination and **facilitate priority transport to the designated hyperbaric facility.**

