

UNSUCCESSFUL RESCUES AND DEATH OF A VICTIM

Clinical Death – cessation of breathing and heart action

Biological Death – Brain cells die; occurs 4-6 minutes after clinical death

Legal Death – Death is officially pronounced by someone with proper training

****Cases have shown 40-60 minutes of brain function after clinical death**

As lifeguards we never assume or pronounce death and do not stop resuscitation methods. We stop when:

- Higher training takes over (paramedics, Dr.'s, etc.)
- **Doctor** pronounces death
- A DNR Order is produced
- We are putting our selves at a GREAT RISK by continuing

Remember: - CPR recovery is minimal (~5%)

- True Spinals will usually be paralysed

- Victims of near-drownings may experience complications beyond the lifeguard's control

} Not rescuer's fault

Recommended steps to deal with the body of a dead victim during an emergency:

IMMEDIATELY

- Contact police and ambulance services
- Cover the body (head to toe) with a blanket
- Keep bystanders clear of the scene
- Report the incident to your employer, supervisor, etc. and fill out a report form
- Be sympathetic to the emotions and concerns of family or friends of the deceased, bystanders, yourself and fellow lifeguards.

SOON AFTER

- Avoid discussion with news media or bystanders
- Meet with fellow lifeguards and employers to review the steps followed in the emergency
- Seek support for your emotional needs

Death is a serious and scary event for anyone involved around it. Don't try to run from it following its occurrence. For more information read:

- ALERT: Critical Incident Stress (*Chapter 6*)
- LIFESAVING MANUAL: Stress Reactions to Rescues (*Appendix A*)