SAR Smart

ASSESSING A COLD PATIENT

- 1. From outside ring to centre: assess Consciousness, Movement, Shivering, Alertness
- 2. Assess whether normal, impaired or no function
- 3. The colder the patient is, the slower you can go, once patient is secured
- 4. Treat all traumatized cold patients with active warming to upper trunk
- 5. Avoid burns: following product guidelines for heat sources; check for excessive skin redness

Cold Stressed. Mild Hypothermia Not Hypothermic 1. Handle gently Insulate/ vapour barrier 2. Have patient sit or 1. Reduce heat loss 3. Move around/ lie down for at Give heat to (e.g., add dry exercise to warm up least 30 min. upper trunk clothing) Give high-calorie 2. Provide food/drink high-calorie CONSCIOUS food or drink 6. Monitor for at least 30 min. 7. Evacuate if no SHIVERING improvement ALERA IF COLD & UNCONSCIOUS **ASSUME SEVERE** CONSCIOUS **HYPOTHERMIA Moderate** Severe

- 1. Treat as Moderate Hypothermia, and
- 2. 60-second breathing/pulse check
- 3. Not breathing... Start CPR
- 4. Evacuate carefully ASAP

Hypothermia

- 1. Handle gently
- 2. Keep horizontal
- 3. No standing/walking
- 4. No drink or food
- 5. Insulate/ vapour barrier

Hypothermia

- **6.** Give heat to upper trunk
- **7.** Evacuate carefully

SUGGESTED SUPPLIES FOR SEARCH/RESPONSE TEAMS IN COLD ENVIRONMENTS:

- Tarp or plastic sheet for vapour barrier outside sleeping bag
- 1 Insulated ground pad
- 1 Hooded sleeping bag (or equivalent)
- 1 Plastic or foil sheet (2 x 3 m) for vapour barrier placed inside sleeping bag
- 1 Source of heat for each team member (e.g., chemical heating pads, or warm water in a bottle or hydration bladder), or each team (e.g., charcoal heater, chemical / electrical heating blanket, or military style Hypothermia Prevention and Management Kit [HPMK])

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HYPOTHERMIA WRAP "The Burrito"

1. Dry or damp clothing: Leave clothing on

IF Shelter / Transport is *less than* 30 minutes away, *THEN Wrap immediately*

2. Very wet clothing:

IF Shelter / Transport is more than 30 minutes away, THEN
Protect patient from environment, remove wet clothing and wrap

3. Avoid burns: follow product instructions; place thin material between heat and skin; check hourly for excess redness







