

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
A Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

Manual:	Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number: 510.09
Subject:	Basic Life Support (BLS) Protocols CARDIAC ARREST - TRAUMA	Page: 1 of 2
References:	California Administrative Code, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2	Effective: 11/15/83

I. TREATMENT

A. ABCs

1. Airway – Open airway
2. Breathing – Assess breathing status
3. Circulation – Assess circulation status

B. CPR

1. If patient has a pulse but is not breathing, provide rescue breathing.

C. Oxygen

1. 100% oxygen by bag-valve-mask or oxygen powered breathing device.
2. Do not use oxygen powered breathing device on patients 5 years old or less.

D. Control massive external bleeding.

E. Spinal immobilization on long board.

F. Transport

1. If patient is transported, transport Code 3, to closest appropriate hospital.
2. Consider a prehospital ALS rendezvous.

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II. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. Determine if rescue efforts are appropriate.

1. Initiation/termination of CPR (refer to EMS Policy #550)

B. Airway Management

1. Special precautions should be used to manage an airway in a cardiac arrest secondary to trauma. The chin lift or jaw thrust method is preferred. Hyperextension of the neck is discouraged and should only be used when all other methods have failed.

C. Patient Assessment

Note good bilateral breath sounds, distended neck veins, tracheal shift, or chest trauma.

D. History

1. Down time without CPR
2. Down time with CPR
3. Transport time to hospital
4. Mechanism of Injury
 - a. Cause of incident

NOTE: It is very difficult to conduct a resuscitation attempt and obtain a history from bystanders at the same time. Resuscitation efforts should take precedence over history.

E. Drowning

1. Consider diving injury.
2. Resuscitate all cold water victims (water temperature less than 70°) with less than one hour submersion.
3. Resuscitate all warm water victims (water temperature greater than 70°) with less than 30 minutes submersion.

NOTE: All lakes, canals, ponding basins, and rivers should be considered cold water.

F. AED is not used in Cardiac Arrest due to trauma.

G. Hanging Considerations: Although hanging is part of trauma in most paramedic texts, the majority of EMS calls dealing with “hanging” are predominantly asphyxiation/strangulation cases. This means patients with a mechanism of injury of a hanging need spinal immobilization and trauma consideration, and should be treated as a medical cardiac arrest if found pulseless and non-breathing.