

## Cold Emergencies

### BLS Procedures

Gently move patient to warm environment and begin passive warming

Minimize movement of extremities

Attempt to maintain supine position

Increase ambulance cabin heat, if applicable

*Cut off* wet clothing and cover patient, including head, with dry blankets

Administer oxygen as indicated

If patient is altered, determine blood glucose level

If less than 60 mg/dl refer to Policy 705.03

Monitor vital signs for 1 minute. If vital signs are within the acceptable range for severe hypothermia, do not initiate respiratory assistance or chest compressions

- Acceptable range for severe hypothermia:
  - Respiratory Rate: at least 4 breaths per minute
  - Heart rate: at least 20 beats per minute
- Expedite transport if no shivering (indicates core temp below 90°)

### ALS Standing Orders

If patient is altered, determine blood glucose if not already performed by BLS personnel or post oral glucose administration

If less than 60 mg/dl, refer to Policy 705.03

IV/IO access (if needed for medication or fluid administration)

- If administering fluid, avoid administering cold fluids.

### Base Hospital Orders only

Consult with ED Physician for further treatment measures