

Multiple persons in the water

Check Card

If a SRU commander believes that the situation and numbers of casualties is beyond the capability of the available assets on scene, then the coastguard should be informed that this is considered a 'Multiple persons in the water incident'.

Consider using the multiple persons in the water triage tool overleaf.

TRIAGE START TIME:

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All times should be communicated with the suffix 'local time'

ASSESS SCENE & BRIEF CREW

- Identify on scene co-ordinator (if applicable).
- Agree plan with other assets if assigned.
- Prepare recovery systems and equipment.
- Commence decision log.

SCAN AREA

- Identify **face up**, purposeful swimming or floating casualties with no obvious buoyancy.
- Deploy LSA urgently – collars, rings.

ASSESS NON-SWIMMING OR FLOATING CASUALTIES WITH AIRWAY ABOVE SURFACE

- Rescue those making **purposeful** movement and struggling to maintain their airway above the surface of the water.

RESCUE ALL SWIMMING OR FLOATING CASUALTIES WITH AIRWAY ABOVE SURFACE

- **DO NOT** recover those without **purposeful** signs of movement unless resource allows at this time.

IF RESOURCE ALLOWS, RESCUE CASUALTIES WITH AIRWAY SUB-SURFACE AND NO PURPOSEFUL SIGNS OF MOVEMENT

Considerations – should include:

- additional resource availability and ETA on scene
- condition of casualties already rescued
- distance and time to the nearest place of safety
- capacity/wellbeing of crew
- estimated time to assess remaining non-moving, airway sub surface casualties
- weather conditions on scene and on the passage back.

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IF ASSET NEEDS TO DEPART, LEAVING CASUALTIES ON SCENE (EG MAXIMUM CAPACITY, DETERIORATION OF RESCUED CASUALTIES)

- Consider helo extraction or crossdecking to another vessel.
- Mark as appropriate, inform the coastguard of intentions using the following phrase, and depart to the agreed casualty landing site.

'I have rescued [number] of casualties and must leave the scene to maximise preservation of life and safety of crew. A [marker] has been deployed in position [xxx] to identify our last position.'

MONITOR CASUALTIES ON RETURN

- Consider landing plans, allocate Casualty Care in accordance with Triage Guidelines.

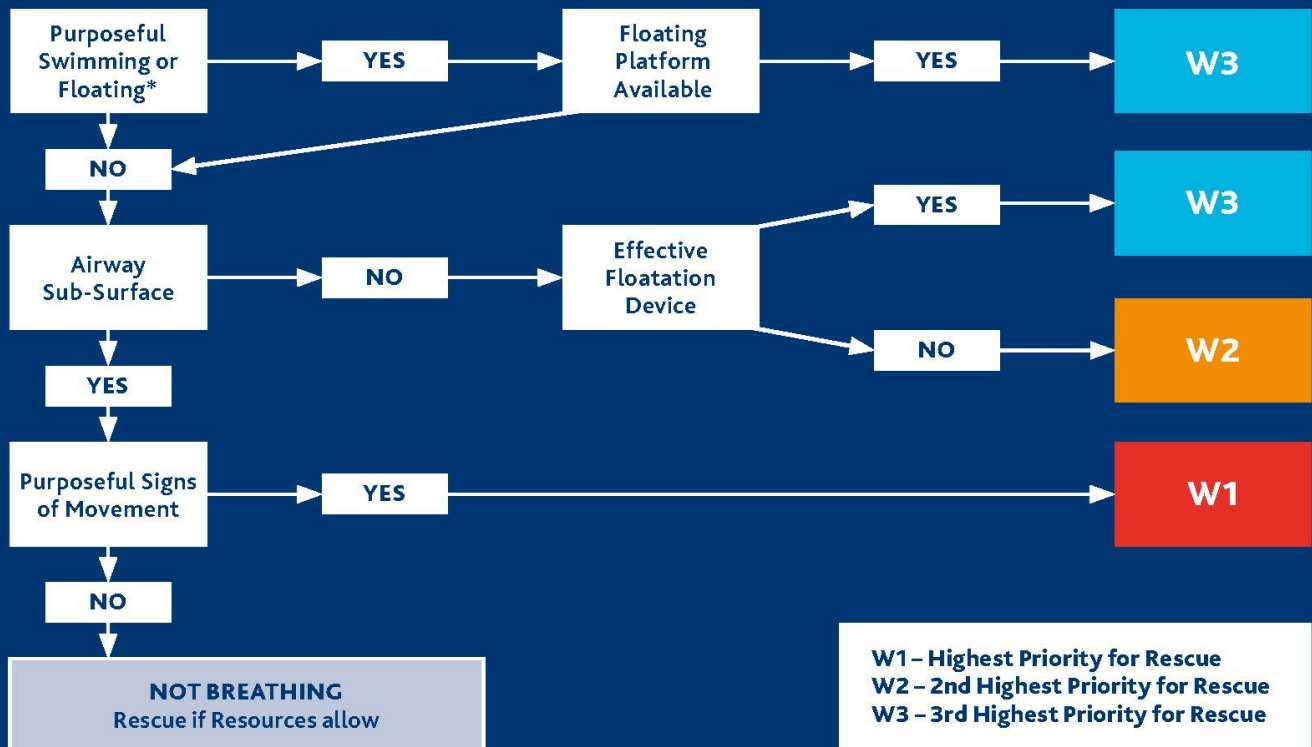
ONCE CASUALTIES ARE LANDED, IDENTIFY LOCATION TO DEBRIEF AND REPLENISH LIFEBOAT (own or other lifeboat station)

- If a further tasking request is received discuss risk vs. benefit with launch authority and consider crew change. **Launches must only be approved if risk to life exists.**

ON COMPLETION OF MISSION

- Conduct full SPEP debrief.
- Ensure crew remain at station (or other location) to decompress before returning home or to work.
- Utilise decompression tool.
- Utilise support mechanisms – TriM, 24/7, occupational health.
- Organise follow up discussion or debrief.

MULTIPLE CASUALTY IN-WATER TRIAGE TOOL



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