

HYPOTHERMIA PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

NOTE: Aggressive steps should be taken early to prevent further loss of body heat and, when possible, actively warm (by adding external heat) trauma and burn casualties.



CONSIDER body substance isolation.

NOTE: If a Combat Lifesaver is available, direct them to assist.

NOTE: Ensure hemostasis, assess, and treat for hemorrhagic shock.

01 MINIMIZE the casualty's exposure to the elements.

02 PLACE insulation material between casualty and cold surface as soon as possible.

03 KEEP DRY CLOTHING and protective gear on or with the casualty.

04 REMOVE WET CLOTHES and replace with dry clothes/materials, if possible.



05 *If using a hypothermia kit, REMOVE* the vapor barrier shell, open completely, and **PLACE** the casualty centered on the shell.

06 *If commercial vapor barrier shell is not available, PLACE* the casualty centered on an impermeable vapor barrier (space blanket, survival blanket, plastic tarp, waterproof sleeping bag shell, body bag, etc.).

07 *If an active warming device is available, open* the active warming device package, **REMOVE** the device, and **EXPOSE** to air (per manufacturer's guidance).

08 **APPLY** the active warming device on the casualty's anterior torso and under the arms in the axillae. **CAUTION:** Do not place the active warming device directly on the skin to prevent burns.

09 If an active warming device is not available, **WRAP** passive warming materials (blanket, etc.) under and around the casualty, including the head.

CAUTION: Passive hypothermia prevention does not reverse the hypothermic process.

10 **WRAP** the entire vapor barrier shell (or other improvised impermeable vapor barrier materials) completely around the casualty, including the head and secure using tape if necessary.

11 **PROTECT** the casualty from further exposure to wind and precipitation while awaiting evacuation.

12 **MONITOR** the casualty closely for life-threatening conditions.

13 **DOCUMENT** all findings and treatments on a DD Form 1380 TCCC Casualty Card and attach to the casualty.



STEP 10 NOTE: Do not cover up the casualty's face.

STEP 10 NOTE: As soon as possible, upgrade any improvised vapor barrier to a well-insulated enclosure system as additional materials become available.

STEP 10 NOTE: As a planning factor, pre-stage an insulated hypothermia enclosure system with external active heating for transition from non-insulated hypothermia enclosure systems.