ACTION IN AN EMERGENCY

Assess the casualty using the primary survey (pp.44-45). Identify life-threatening conditions and once these are managed, carry out a secondary survey (pp.46-48).

UNCONSCIOUS CASUALTY

ASSESS FOR BREATHING

Is the casualty breathing normally (not just gasping)?

NO



CPR/CHEST COMPRESSIONS

Ask someone to call 911 for emergency help and get an AED if possible. Begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation/CPR with chest compressions (adult p.258, child p.260, infant p.260), alternating chest compressions with rescue breaths.

Make sure the area is safe before you approach. Is anyone in danger?

NO

YES

YES

RESPONSE

Is the casualty conscious? Try to get a response by asking questions and gently shaking his shoulders. Is there a response?

CIRCULATION

YES

Check for and treat life-threatening conditions, such as severe bleeding.

Call 911 for emergency help.

Maintain an open airway. Place the casualty on his side in the recovery position.



ASSESS FOR BREATHING

Has the casualty resumed breathing?

YES

CONTINUE CPR/CHEST COMPRESSIONS (see left)

CIRCULATION

Check for and treat life-threatening conditions, such as severe bleeding.

COMPRESSION-ONLY CPR

Give chest compressions only if you have not had formal training in CPR or you are unwilling or unable to give rescue breaths. The 911 dispatcher will give instructions for compression-only CPR.

SINGLE RESCUER

If you are alone, call 911 for emergency help, then commence CPR (adult p.258). If the casualty is a child or an infant, give chest compressions and rescue breaths (CPR) for two minutes (child p.260, infant p.260). Call 911 for emergency help, then continue CPR.

If it is not safe, do not approach, Call 911 for emergency help.

CONSCIOUS CASUALTY



AIRWAY AND BREATHING

If a person is conscious and alert, it follows that her airway is open and clear. Breathing may be fast, slow, easy, or difficult. Assess and treat any difficulty found.

A-Z OF EMERGENCIES

Anaphylactic shock p.268

Asthma p.268

Broken bones p.274

Burns and scalds p.274

Choking adult p.264

Choking child p.264

Choking infant p.266

Head injury p.272

Heart attack p.262

Hypoglycemia p.278

Hypothermia pp.186-88

Meningitis p.266

Seizures in adults p.276

Seizures in children p.276

Severe external bleeding p.270

Shock p.270

Spinal injury p.272

Stroke p.262

Swallowed poisons p.278

CIRCULATION

Are there life threatening conditions, such as severe bleeding or heart attack?

NO

TREAT LIFE-THREATENING INJURIES OR ILLNESS. YES

Call 911 for emergency help. Monitor and record casualty's level of response, breathing, and pulse while you wait for

help to arrive.



CARRY OUT A SECONDARY SURVEY

Assess the level of consciousness using the AVPU scale (p.52) and carry out a head-to-toe survey to check for signs of illness or injury.

Call for appropriate help. Call 911 for emergency help if you suspect serious injury or illness. Monitor and record casualty's level of response, breathing, and pulse while you wait for help to arrive.