

Drowning Scenario

Unit Standard 5685: Respond to an emergency in an aquatic facility

Element 2 Apply aquatic rescue techniques in response to a simulated emergency in the water at an aquatic facility

Element 7 Explain and demonstrate procedures for reporting and recording incidents occurring at an aquatic facility

Drowning

The purpose of this scenario is to provide opportunities for the candidate/s to recognise and respond to an emergency situation in the pool and will involve the rescue of an unconscious casualty and complete accident reporting.

Assessment Conditions

This scenario should take place in deep water (at least 1.2m or deeper) during a regular/normal operating session and will involve a team of two lifeguards (candidates). The candidates will wear full uniform and are required to carry out as a team of two and respond to a drowning casualty. It must be clear to pool customers that this is a simulated situation for the purpose of assessment. The candidates will respond to the scenario situation outlined by the assessor and should continue until the assessor indicates to stop.

Candidate Instructions

You are responsible for supervision and control of the designated area. Respond to any situation you recognise presents a risk to customers or staff. You will have back up from a second lifeguard who will also be actively supervising the same area. Continue responding to the situation until you are instructed to stop by the assessor. Your response will be discussed after the scenario is completed.

Role play candidate briefing (minimum of two)

You are a weak swimmer who has experienced a mild epileptic fit, you are unable to get to the poolside and find yourself slipping under the water surface. As the lifeguard approaches to rescue you slip to the bottom of the pool. You will make it obvious you are still breathing when the lifeguard brings you to the surface. You will then remain unconscious and unresponsive until the lifeguard has removed you from the pool and placed you in the recovery position. As you begin to recover consciousness cough and splutter but remain drowsy. Continue with role play until the assessor instructs you to stop.

Evidence Requirements
1. Candidate recognises customer in difficulty
2. Candidate communicates to second lifeguard, who backs up supervision of areas and prepares to assist first lifeguard
3. Pool entry approach and recovery are appropriate to the situation and conditions
4. Casualty is towed to side – airway remains above water surface 90% of time
5. Casualty is removed from the water by both lifeguards and positioned so airway, breathing and pulse can be assessed. Second lifeguard makes a call to emergency services
6. Candidate determines casualty is breathing – places casualty in the recovery position
7. Candidate continues to monitor airway and breathing. When casualty begins to cough and regain consciousness the candidate reassures casualty and maintains the recovery position
8. When emergency services arrive candidate explains what has occurred
9. Candidate completes accident report that complies with facility procedures

Follow up questions:

What indicated to you that the casualty was in difficulty?

Why did you choose the entry, approach and tow you used?

How did you know your response to the situation was effective?

Would you do anything differently next time?