Section: BLS Medical Care – Standing Orders
Subject: BLS ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES
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1. Heat Emergencies (Hyperthermia):
    a. Basic BLS treatments
    b. Heat Cramps:
        i. Move patient to cool environment.
        ii. Administer oral fluids in small quantities q 5 minutes as tolerated.
    c. Heat Exhaustion:
        i. Move patient to a cool environment.
        ii. Watch for signs and symptoms of developing heat stroke; if neurological signs and symptoms develop, then treat as for heat stroke
        iii. Administer oral fluids as tolerated.
        iv. Loosen overly restrictive or heavy clothing and apply cool packs as tolerated.
    d. Heat Stroke:
        i. Move patient to a cool environment
        ii. Immediately remove clothing and cool the patient with water, air conditioning, and cold packs.
            1. Apply the cold packs to the arm pit, neck, and groin regions
    e. ALS evaluation and transport criteria:
        i. Any patient with neurologic symptoms
        ii. Abnormal vital signs including irregular pulse
        iii. Patient with signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion or heat stroke

2. Cold Emergencies (Hypothermia):
    a. Basic BLS treatments
    b. Initiate passive re-warming procedures
        i. Remove any wet clothing
        ii. Cover the patient, including the head, with blankets
        iii. Move the patient into the heated unit or other warm environment
    c. Severe hypothermia (core temp ≤ 95° F or decreasing level of consciousness(LOC)):
        i. Apply hot packs to the arm pit, groin, trunk, and behind the neck regions
        ii. Handle the patient gently because they are prone to spontaneous dysrhythmias
        iii. BLS modifications for cardiac arrest in hypothermia:
            1. Start CPR
            2. Secure the airway with a rescue airway
            3. Limit any AED use to one shock only
    d. ALS evaluation and transport criteria:
        i. Any patient with an altered LOC
        ii. Abnormal vital signs including irregular pulse
        iii. Any patient who appears to be suffering from severe hypothermia