

CASUALTY MANAGEMENT

Scenario / Background
Falls from height are a risk on any vessel and can result in anything from a minor to a major injury. For this example, let's take a fall from 3m onto the deck. The casualty is unconscious with a head injury.
Pre-activity considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Think about resources, personnel and skill sets needed.- Who oversees comms; what needs to be communicated and to whom?- Who will take charge of the medical situation? Does that person have other important roles in an emergency?- Have you ever run a drill for this? Are there any action cards?- What do you need to do first? What is your priority, medically speaking?- Where and how will the casualty be moved, if able to move?- What monitoring will you do and how often?- At what point will you consider calling ashore / telemedicine for support?- Decide whether to Medevac (how depends on location) or remain onboard.
Equipment
Follow the vessel procedure for rescue and a stretcher party: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rescue and personal PPE.- Stretcher / casualty handling correctly graded for the intended use (e.g. vertical lift, weight limit).- Medical kit / care needed.- Where to take the casualty.- Onboard / shoreside communications.
Brief
Discuss the vessel procedure for medical care and the medical algorithm: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Danger, Response, Shout for help (raise the alarm)- C - any catastrophic haemorrhage?- A – is their airway clear?- B – are they breathing?- C¹ – consider the possibility of a C-spine injury.- C² – circulation- D – disability: important checks for a head injury.- E – environment and exposure: keep warm, check for other injuries.- Consider requirements for ongoing monitoring and care.

Note: This card and briefing sheet is intended for guidance only and in no way passes liability to any member of CHIRP or the Superyacht Training Group for its content and the procedures within.

- Use the Ship Captain's Medical Guide together with vessel protocols / procedures. Refer to Maritime Telemedical Assistance Service (TMAS) shoreside support.
- What stretchers and casualty handling equipment do you have on board and who knows how to use it correctly? Ensure you follow manufacturer guidance for use.
- Your level of training depends on your role and position. This means there will be a range of medical skills, confidence and ability onboard. Discuss how to work to your strengths to manage the incident.
- Regular drills and onboard training are recommended to train with your crew and your equipment, in your environment.

Questions to confirm learning

- Was the medical care appropriate and effective?
- What equipment was needed? Did everyone know how to find and use it?
- What radio channels should be used in an emergency?
- What communications are needed onboard and to shoreside?
- What are the Medevac procedures?

What if's / Emergency considerations

- What will you do if you can't move the casualty?
- What if you suspect a C-spine injury but you need to move them?
- If you got something wrong, how can you correct this for next time?
- What will happen if the casualty deteriorates?
- What if you are in a location where help is a long way away?
- What is the nearest safe port

Post activity debrief points

- What went well and what didn't?
- What would we do differently next time?
- What did we learn?
- Has the equipment been stored correctly, and kit restocked and tagged?
- How is everyone feeling? Remind them that how they are feeling is normal. It's natural to feel different after an incident and it can take a few days to recover.
- Make sure crew know who to speak to if they need peer or professional support after an incident.