Responding to an Emergency

- Identify and describe the three emergency action steps
- List the 4 conditions considered life threatening in an emergency situation
- Explain when and how to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number

Emergency Action Steps

- An emergency can be overwhelming

- In any emergency...
  - **Check**
    - The scene and the victim
  - **Call**
    - 9-1-1 or local emergency numbers
  - **Care**
    - Victim’s situation

Check

Two parts:
1. Check the scene
   - Make sure scene is safe for you and any bystanders
   - Use surrounding clues to determine what happened
Check

2. Check the victim
   - Shout and tap
   - Must get consent from a conscious victim before you give care
   - Activate EMS if the victim has any life-threatening conditions
     - Unconsciousness
     - Trouble breathing
     - No signs of life (breathing or movement)
       - For children and infants – no pulse
       - Severe bleeding
   - Move only if he or she is in immediate danger

Call

- Top priority is to get advanced care to the scene quickly as possibly
  - If in doubt, call
  - Refer to basic list on page 21
- Compile as much information as you can for the dispatcher
  - If possible, ask a bystander to make the phone call for you
    - Example clip

Call

If you are alone...

- Call first if
  - Unconscious adult or adolescent victim over 12 yrs old
  - Witnessed sudden collapse of a child or infant
  - Unconscious infant or child known to be at risk for heart problems

- Care first (2 min worth) if
  - The unconscious victim is under 12 and the collapse was not witnessed
  - Any victim of a drowning
Care

- Care for life-threatening injuries first
- Do no further harm
- Monitor for changes in victim’s condition
- Comfort the victim
- Reassure the victim

Transporting the Victim

- In some cases, you may decide to take the injured or ill person to a medical facility yourself.
- Never transport a person:
  - when the trip may aggravate the injury or illness or cause worsening of the condition
  - when the person has or may develop a life-threatening condition
  - if you are unsure of the nature of the injury or illness.
- If you decide it is safe to transport the person, ask someone to come with you to keep the person comfortable.
- Discourage an injured or ill person from driving him- or herself to the hospital or physician.

Summary

- Check the scene and the victim
- Call 9-1-1
- Care for the victim until advanced medical personnel arrive