

## **Scene Assessment**

(ALERT 76, CLSM 6:3)

Remember to be SAFE!

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- ⇒ This step is especially important for an unwitnessed scene or an unfamiliar area
  - ⇒ Don't rush into a scene before you know what the dangers are, or what happened
  - ⇒ Introduce yourself as a lifeguard
  - ⇒ Instruct patient not to move: "try to just sit still and stay as calm as you can while I ask you a few questions"

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- ⇒ Check for any possible dangers.
  - ⇒ Deal with the potential dangers before treating the patient.
  - ⇒ In the water, this would include things like an open diving board, rope swing, etc.
  - ⇒ Recognize bodily fluids as a hazard

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- ⇒ Determine the basic history of what happened, or the *mechanism of injury*.
  - ⇒ This will probably tell you the chief complaint as well
  - ⇒ Make sure to find out if there are any other patients: "was anyone else with you?"
  - ⇒ Ensure that any witnesses are identified so that you can get their name and number before they leave
  - ⇒ Figure out if there are any relatives of the patient at the scene
  - ⇒ Identify any bystanders that may be able to assist you in the rescue

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- ⇒ If there is any possibility of contacting body fluids, gloves should be put on.
  - ⇒ Protect other areas of your body as well: be careful where you are kneeling or otherwise touching the ground.
  - ⇒ If the patient is unconscious, ensure that your pocket mask is ready in case you need it.