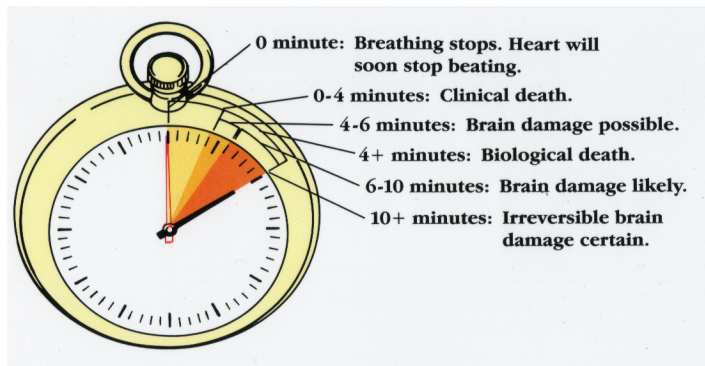


## **Unsuccessful Rescues and Death of a Victim**

**Clinical Death** – cessation of breathing and heart action

**Biological Death** – brain cells die; occurs 4-6 minutes after clinical death

**Legal Death** – death is officially pronounced by someone with proper training



\*\*Cases have shown 40-60 minutes of brain function after clinical death

As lifeguards we never assume or pronounce death and do not stop resuscitation methods. We stop when:

- Higher training takes over (paramedics, Dr.'s, etc.)
- **Doctor** pronounces death
- A valid DNR ('Do Not Resuscitate') order is physically produced
- We are putting our selves at a GREAT RISK by continuing

Remember: - CPR recovery is minimal (~5%)  
- Spinals will usually be paralyzed  
- Victims of near-drownings may experience complications beyond the lifeguard's control

Not rescuer's fault

*Recommended* steps to deal with the body of a dead victim during an emergency:

### **IMMEDIATELY**

- Contact police and ambulance services
- Cover the (head to toe) with a blanket
- Keep bystanders clear of the scene
- Report the incident to your employer, supervisor, etc. and fill out a report form
- Be sympathetic to the emotions and concerns of family or friends of the deceased, bystanders, yourself and fellow lifeguards.

### **SOON AFTER**

- Avoid discussion with news media or bystanders
- Meet with fellow lifeguards and employers to review the steps followed in the emergency
- Seek support for your emotional needs

## **Critical Incident Stress:**

(ALERT ch.6, CLSM appendix A)