

## HAEMORRHAGIC SHOCK / LARGE WOUND / POTENTIAL SHARK BITE SITUATION

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This is usually a life threatening situation, so call for assistance early!

Ensure your own safety, and then your friend / patient's. Stay calm and reassure the patient.

Standard Recuse caveats apply: Airway, Breathing, Circulation + Disability (Level of alertness).

Keep the patient warm (Use wetsuits, spaceblankets, attempt to create a barrier from the wind.)

Apply immediate pressure to the wound. (This might mean your fist covered with a towel / Pack the wound with gauze if you have any.)

A tourniquet can help if major arteries are bleeding. (Surfboard leash could be used.)

Splint and elevate the limb affected. If there is a major open leg wound, pressure applied above at the groin can slow the bleeding.

Once help arrives (Hopefully the paramedics), make sure they phone ahead to the Hospital Emergency Department to arrange O negative blood. (You might need 4-6 units at least).



Ask the patient if they know their blood group. (Useful information for the ER docs).

Wound care: Apply saline soaked gauze and strap this down firmly with a bandage, and immobilise the limb.

In the case of a near death or worst case scenario a death at the scene, a debrief and counselling is essential for all concerned. The nearest hospital's Emergency Department could assist with this.

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