

When Someone Becomes Suddenly Ill or Injured . . .

1) Don't Panic. If you become excited, the person who is ill or injured may also become excited. If that person is having a heart attack or difficulty breathing, excitement will only compound their problem. (If you do become excited, take a slow deep breath to calm down.)

2) Call for Help. Dial "6060" (312/791-6060) and describe what you see regarding the ill or injured person. The McCormick Place Security Officer taking your call will dispatch "in-house" EMS personnel and other officers to assist the victim. If the situation appears serious, Security will immediately notify the Chicago Fire Dept. to send an ambulance. *Be aware that "6060" is a recorded telephone line, and the taped introduction is only 7 seconds long. So stay on the phone!* If you choose to call "911", be sure to call "6060" also -so our own personnel can direct the ambulance and assist.

3) Don't Move! Never move someone who is seriously injured, or allow him or her to move - unless there is danger of further injury.

4) Use Caution Around Blood. Blood and other bodily fluids can transmit serious diseases. Try to avoid direct contact with your skin and clothes.

5) Provide Reassurance. Talk to the ill or injured person, and reassure him or her that qualified help is on the way. *Try to keep the person calm and awake!*

6) Provide Comfort. If the person is ill but not injured, let him or her sit or lie down in the position most comfortable to them. People with breathing problems usually feel best when they are sitting-up. Those that feel faint should lie down. Don't allow someone who has fainted to get-up too soon. *Again, never move an injured person unless there is danger of further injury!*

7) Provide Protection. If the ill or injured person is lying on the ground, cover him or her to maintain body temperature. If he or she appears to be having a seizure, remove anything in the way that could fall on them. Do not restrain seizure patients or place anything in their mouths. These "old-time" practices can cause serious injury!

8) Provide Privacy. Getting sick or injured in public can be embarrassing. If the person is ill but not injured, accompany him or her to a washroom or private office. If the person is injured, try to disperse on-lookers. Stay with the victim until help arrives.

9) Don't Give the Person Anything to Eat or Drink. If they become unconscious, they may choke. If they need surgery, they could become obstructed.

10) Observe Potential Witnesses. Security may need assistance in obtaining accurate information for their reports. Anyone you see who could be a witness, should be pointed-out.

11) Advise EMS Personnel What You have Observed and Done for the Victim. This information could be helpful towards the treatment and overall outcome for someone in need of emergency medical care. Also, advise the paramedics if you had come in contact with victim's blood or other bodily fluids.

- Courtesy of the McCormick Place Department of Security & Safety