WHEELCHAIR CPR

A method of preparing a cardiac arrest casualty in a wheelchair for CPR

Ensure Safety for Self and Others

Dial Triple Zero (000) for an Ambulance

DANGER
Remove hazards

RESPONSE
Try to get a response

SEND FOR HELP
Ambulance & assistance

AIRWAY
Open with head tilt/chin lift

BREATHING
Look, listen and feel

MAKE ROOM BEHIND THE CHAIR - APPLY THE BRAKES - REMOVE ACCESSORIES (armrests, anti-tip devices, food tray etc).

One first aider

If possible, secure the casualty to the chair
(ie around the chest and chair back with a belt)

Stand behind the chair

Hold on to the handles

Two first aiders

One on each side of the chair

Kneel down on one knee
(with the foot at the rear of the chair on the ground)

Place your arm under the casualty's armpit and hold onto the handle

The other hand supports the casualty's head

More than two first aiders

If several people can help:

Make room on the floor

Carefully lift the casualty from the wheelchair

Place on his/her back on the ground

LOWER THE CHAIR BACKWARDS TO THE GROUND

REMOVE FROM THE CHAIR
Support under armpits, pull/slide out of the chair onto the ground

START CPR

Signs & Symptoms

Cannot be woken.

No purposeful response.

Not breathing normally or at all.

There may be methods other than these.

Use good manual handling techniques.

Do not attempt if beyond your strength capabilities.

Avoiding injury to the casualty and the first aider is the priority.

Try not to bang the casualty's head.

Only do CPR in the chair if it has a hard back.

May not be suitable for motorised wheelchairs.

Do not do this in a plastic chair.

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