

12. Electric Shock

This is an emergency calling for prompt and intelligent action—prompt action if the casualty's life is to be saved; intelligent action if two casualties instead of one are to be avoided.

1. Switch off the current, if possible.

2. If it is impossible to switch off or break the current, remove the casualty from contact with current. Try to drag him clear by pulling on his clothing, but first insulate yourself as much as possible by standing or kneeling on dry material and covering your hands with rubber, dry woollen gloves or other dry clothing. Take care to avoid contact with any water or dampness on the deck or on the casualty. You may be able to 'lassoo' him with a dry rope and pull him away; or push him away with a dry board or piece of wood.

3. Once he is clear, give immediate artificial respiration by the mouth-to-mouth method, unless he is breathing normally. External cardiac resuscitation (massage) may also be required if the heart action has failed
Treat for shock and for any burns where the body has been in contact with the conductor

4. Recovery after an electric shock may appear to be rapid, but any man who has been rendered unconscious should be kept at rest in bed for at least 24 hours.

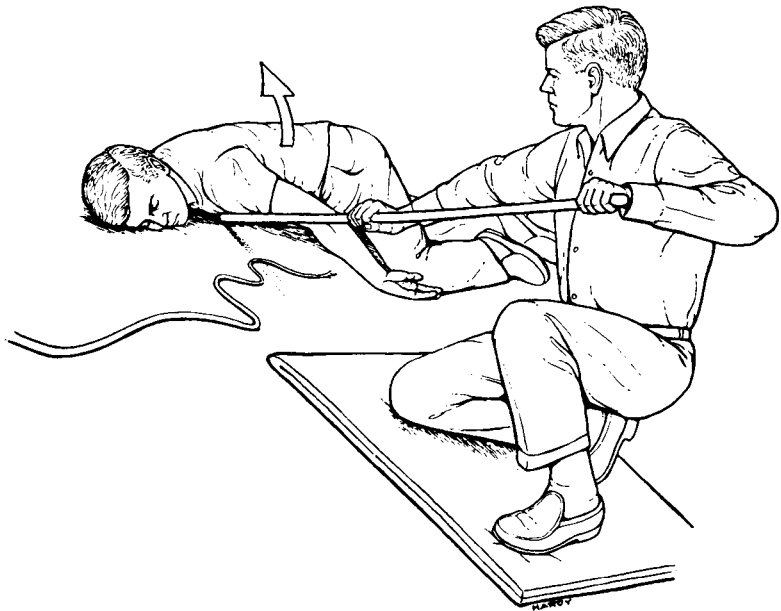


Fig. 6-3. Method of rescuing a victim in contact with a high tension power line, using a piece of dry rope or stick to pull victim from live wire, or vice versa.