

SURVIVAL AT SEA

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The spectrum of survival at sea is discussed utilizing the experience of over 1000 person rescues in the North Atlantic, North Pacific oceans, in the Great Lakes Region of the United States and its inland waters. Case discussions of the rescue of 550 passengers of the sinking vessel M.V. Prinsendam and the air crash of Air Florida flight 90 in the Potomac River are presented using slides and videotape. Cold water near-drowning cases are discussed using videotapes of the actual rescues and case presentations of a 60 minute, 38 minute, and 20 minute submersion with full recovery. Prognosis for survival is discussed with emphasis on the factors of age, length of submersion, water temperature, adequacy of resuscitative efforts, amount of struggle, water quality, and effect of accompanying injuries. A summary includes areas of future research considerations in the fields of hypothermia, resuscitation, rescue, accident prevention, egress, and prevention of cold water near-drowning.