#### L VEHICLE IN WATER

## 1 Sinking Vehicle (Caller Inside)

Stay calm and listen carefully so that I can help you get out. I will tell you exactly what to do next.

Have everyone **release** their **seat belts** and **unlock** the **doors**.

Can you open a rear side window all the way?

(If you have **electric windows**, make sure your **key** is **on**.)

 $Yes \to 1c$ 

 (No) Can you open a front side window all the way?

Yes → 1c

 $No \rightarrow 1a$ 

#### **Break Window**

**Move** into the **backseat**, where you need to try to **break** a **rear** side window.

 Do you have a hammer, center punch, or anything heavy and hard to break the window with?

 $No \rightarrow 1b$ 

- (Yes) Use this object and hit a side window near the bottom corner, closest to the front of the vehicle.
- Did you break the window?

(Yes) Clear all of the glass out of the window opening.

Yes  $\rightarrow$  1c No  $\rightarrow$  1b

### 1b Try Again to Break Window

Is there **anything else** around that is **heavy and hard?** (Check your **glove compartment**, **console**, and **under** your **seats**.)

- (Yes) Use this object and hit a side window near the bottom corner, closest to the front of the vehicle.
- (No) Lie down on your back and use both feet together to kick a rear side window near the bottom corner, closest to the front of the vehicle.
- Did you break the window?
- **(Yes) Clear** all of the **glass** out of the **window opening**.

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Yes} \rightarrow \text{1c} \\ \text{No} \rightarrow \text{1d} \end{array}$ 

#### 1c Exit Vehicle

## Roll that window all the way down.

- Are there any children or anyone else who needs assistance with their seat belts?
- (Yes) Starting with the oldest, help them undo their seat belts and have them get out through the open window. Push all the children out ahead of you.

Get out of the vehicle now and swim to the nearest shore. If you need to, you can hold on to the floating vehicle until you catch your breath and determine where to swim.

End

#### **Rules**

- The EMD must weigh the facts of each situation, as conditions may change rapidly (sinking, wet phone problems, car rolling over, car upside down, car moving in current), and must navigate among the most appropriate advice items in this protocol.
- 2. At some point, the phone will likely stop working. This can happen at any time. Certain instructions must be given early in the PAI sequence, prior to losing contact with the caller, to prepare them as much as possible for the escape attempt.

#### 1d Vehicle Underwater

At some point, your **phone** may **stop working**, so I'm going to tell you **exactly** what to do next.

Your car is going to **continue** to fill with water. Just before the water covers your head, **take a deep breath**.

Once you are completely underwater, you should be able to open a door and get to the surface. Keep trying to open the door. If it won't open, try to break a side window out and follow the bubbles to the surface.

#### (Vehicle not completely submerged)

Look again for an object that is heavy and hard. (Check your glove compartment, console, and under your seats.)

End

## Vehicle in Floodwater (Caller Inside) Is the water moving the vehicle or getting

deeper inside the vehicle?

No → Return to Sequence

(Yes) Stav calm and listen carefully so that I can help you get out. I will tell you **exactly** what to do next. Have everyone **release** their **seat belts** and **unlock** the **doors**. You must **get out** of the **vehicle** and on top of the roof.

• Can you open a window on the side the water is coming from (upstream)? (If you have **electric windows**, make sure your **key** is **on**.) Yes → 2c

• (No) Can you open a door on the other side, away from where the water is **coming from** (downstream)? Yes → 2c

(Remember to unlock the doors.)  $No \rightarrow 2a$ 

**Break Window** 

• Can you **open** a **window** on **this side** of the vehicle, still away from where the water is coming from (downstream)?

 $Yes \rightarrow 2c$ 

 (No) Do you have a hammer, center punch, or anything heavy and hard to **break** the **window** with?

 $N_0 \rightarrow 2h$ 

(Yes) Use this object and hit a side window near the bottom corner. closest to the front of the vehicle.

Did you break the window?

(Yes) Clear all of the glass out of the window opening.

Yes → 2c  $No \rightarrow 2b$ 

End

Is there anything else around that is heavy and hard? (Check your glove compartment, console, and under your seats.)

(Yes) Use this object and hit a side window near the bottom corner, closest to the front of the vehicle.

**Try Again to Break Window** 

(No) Lie down on your back and use both feet together to kick a side window near the bottom corner, closest to the **front** of the vehicle. This may be easier in the backseat.

Did you break the window?

(Yes) Clear all of the glass out of the window opening.

 $Yes \rightarrow 2c$ 

 $No \rightarrow 2e$ 

## **Exit Vehicle**

(Window) Roll that window all the way down. (Door) Open the door all the way.

 Are there any children or anyone else who needs assistance with their seat belts?

(Yes) Starting with the oldest, help them undo their seat belts and get them on top of the roof.

**Climb** to the **roof** and **stay with** your vehicle. If possible, take the phone with you. Stay on top of the roof unless your vehicle starts to move with the current.

• Has the water started to move your vehicle?

Yes – vehicle moving  $\rightarrow$  2d Stay on the line End

# **Vehicle Moving**

Your vehicle will probably sink now. You will need to try to wade or swim to the nearest shore or a fixed object (sign, tree, post, building). You can stay on top of the vehicle if it seems like it could bring you **closer** to the **shore** or a **fixed object**.

## **Vehicle Underwater**

At some point, your phone may stop working, so I'm going to tell you exactly what to do next. Your car is going to **continue** to fill with water. Just before the water covers your head, take a deep breath.

Once you are **completely underwater**, you should be able to open a door and get to the surface. Keep trying to open the door. If it won't open, try to break a side window out and follow the bubbles to the surface.

(Vehicle not completely submerged)

**Look again** for an **object** that is **heavy** and hard. (Check your glove compartment, console, and under your seats.) End

VEHICLE IN WATER