**Emergency Resuscitation**

For Laryngectomy and Tracheostomy Patients

In the event of an emergency, follow these steps CAREFULLY when trying to revive a laryngectomy patient.

**IF THE CHEST DOES NOT RISE**

It may be because of:

A. A poor seal over the stoma.
B. A blocked stoma - try to clear any tube that may be present. Only as a last resort remove the tube. DO NOT waste time by replacing the tube.

**TRY AGAIN.**

**IF THE VICTIM HAD AN ACCIDENT IN WHICH WATER HAS ENTERED THE LUNGS**

A. Lie the victim over your knee, making sure that his stoma is lower than his lungs. OR ensure lungs are above stoma, using a pillow, etc.
Water will then flow through the stoma.
B. When the lungs are clear, proceed with steps 1 and 2.

**POSITION FOR RESUSCITATION**

- With the victim on his back and his head tilted backwards, knees at his sides. It will help to put a support such as a rolled up coat under his shoulders to ensure that the neck is fully extended.
- Place two fingers each side of the nose and your thumb under the chin.
- Close your fingers to prevent any escape of air from the nose and mouth.

**REUSCITATION**

- Take a deep breath and place your widely open mouth over the stoma forming a seal.
- Blow into the stoma until the victim's chest rises.
- Release your fingers between each blow.
Laryngectomees are people that have had their voice box removed, usually because of cancer.

After the operation they have to breathe through a stoma (hole) in the neck and cannot breathe through their mouth or nose. In a few cases the stoma may be located lower, even in the upper chest.

Some people have a tracheostomy, which involves a hole being made in the trachea or windpipe, to bypass an upper airway obstruction. They will ALWAYS have a tube in the stoma. They should be treated just like a laryngectomee.

It is essential that mouth to stoma resuscitation is given in an emergency as mouth to mouth resuscitation would prove useless to someone who has had a laryngectomy.

**LARYNGECTOMEE IDENTIFIERS - WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

- Car window sticker
- Wrist band
- Emergency card in wallet
- Medical alert bracelet
- Baseplate and HME
- Foam cover
- Bib
- Jewellery

**STOMA COVERS**

Before | After