



Water Smart Levels 5 & 6 – Years 7 to 10

Aquatic Emergencies

Activity Sheet 6 – Self Preservation Case Studies

Name: _____

Read the following case studies and answer the accompanying questions.

Drowned While Attempting Rescue

An 18-year-old man drowned yesterday while trying to save his sister and three of her friends. The group had been swept into a rip after being knocked over by heavy surf. The young man was watching from the beach and ventured into the water to rescue the group. Very soon, he too was struggling and slipped beneath the surface within sight of the group.

Do you think the 18 year old should have entered the water?

Yes No

Why / why not?

What could / should he have done differently?

What would be the best rescue scenario for the people in trouble in this case study?



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Rescuer Being Rescued

A young woman is being treated for shock and hypothermia following a boating accident yesterday.

The woman was fishing from an aluminium boat with friends when she noticed a man in a dingy signalling for help about 15 metres away. Wanting to assist the man, she entered the water and started to swim towards the dinghy, but was quickly overcome by the cold water. The young woman was rescued shortly afterwards by her friends in the 'tinny'. They then went to the aid of the man in the dinghy and found he had run out of fuel.

Do you think the woman should have tried to help the man?

Yes No

Why / why not?

What could / should she have done differently?

With the concept of self preservation in mind, what would you have done in this situation?



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Self Preservation

An 18-year-old man and his 16-year-old brother recently rescued a young child in very challenging flood conditions. The 10-year-old child was clinging to a tree after being washed off the roof of a car. The young man saw the child in difficulty and called to his brother to grab a rope from his car. He secured one end of the rope to the tow bar of his car and the other end around his waist. Before wading into the cascading water he picked up a tree branch to test the water depth and use as a rescue aid. The child was brought to safety and treated for hypothermia. The young men have been congratulated for their clear thinking and prompt actions.

What actions of the 18 and 16 year olds made this a successful rescue attempt?

If you were in this situation, what would you consider before entering the water?

What might have happened to cause this emergency situation?

Could there still be other people in trouble in the water?

Yes No

What else could the brothers have done to assist in the rescue?
