Place patient in a horizontal position as soon as practically possible

Harness Induced Suspension Trauma

Fall arrested by harness/rope

If circulation is compromised remove the harness when the patient is safely lowered to the ground

Personal safety of the Practitioner is paramount

No

Yes

Patient still suspended

Advise patient to move legs to encourage venous return

Elevate lower limbs if possible during rescue

Request ALS

Place patient in a horizontal position as soon as practically possible

Monitor BP, SpO2 and ECG

Oxygen therapy to maintain SpO2 > 94%

20 mg/Kg aliquots NaCl IV to maintain Sys BP > 90 mmHg

Go to appropriate CPG

Patients must be transported to ED following suspension trauma regardless of injury status

If adult cardiac arrest following rescue consider Sodium Bicarbonate 8.4% 50 mL IV

Special Authorisation: Paramedics are authorised to continue the established infusion in the absence of an Advanced Paramedic or Doctor during transportation

Consider removing a harness suspended person from suspension in the direction of gravity i.e. downwards, so as to avoid further negative hydrostatic force, however this measure should not otherwise delay rescue.

Reference:
Adish A et al, 2009, Evidence-based review of the current guidance on first aid measures for suspension trauma, Health and Safety Executive (UK) Research report RR708
Australian Resuscitation Council, 2009, Guideline 9.1.5 Harness Suspension Trauma first aid management.