Personal safety of the Responder is paramount

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

Place patient in a horizontal position as soon as practically possible

Monitor vital signs

Oxygen therapy

Go to appropriate CPG

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

Symptoms of pre-syncope
light-headedness
nausea
sensations of flushing
tingling or numbness of the arms or legs
anxiety
visual disturbance
a feeling of about to faint

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.

Advise patient to move legs (to encourage blood flow back to the heart)

Elevate lower limbs if possible during rescue

Patients still suspended

Yes

No

Fall arrested by harness/rope

999 / 112

Patient still suspended

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.