



TEST YOURSELF DEATHS

Structure of pamphlet

Test your own knowledge on the subject DEATHS - solve a few assignments

Find background knowledge in "Medical Guide for Seafarers", pp 59-62 and in the videos related to the book.

Find the correct answers at the end of the pamphlet. However, test your knowledge, before you read the answers.

Stay up-dated

Find all self-training assignments at our webpage
www.dma.dk

You may ask us questions at
cms@dma.dk

You may phone us at
+45 7219 6004

**DANISH MARITIME
AUTHORITY**

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**You may want to read chapter 8 in
“Medical Guide for Seafarers”.**

Assignment 1

What is apparent death?

Assignment 2

List 4 conditions under which apparent death could occur:

Assignment 3

List and describe the 3 signs of death:

Assignment 4

Any special storing precautions if you have a dead person on board?



Find additional information at:

“Order on inquests and burials, etc. in case of deaths at sea”.

Find legal text at www.dma.dk

Did you know ?

In case of death on board Danish flagged ship at sea or in a foreign port, it is mandatory to report to Chief of Police in Copenhagen, without delay.

Danish Police Investigation and
Communication Centre
Copenhagen Police
Phone: +45 4515 4200

Declaration of Death

The following information must be included in a Declaration of Death (No pre-printed form exists):

- Name, in full, date of birth (CPR), occupation and place of residence of the deceased
- Where death occurred and where the body was found
- Time and date
- Signs of death
- Cause of death (i.e. stroke, drowning, poisoning)
- Manner of death (4 possibilities only):
Murder, suicide, accident or natural causes.
- Statement, that police was notified and granted permission to issue a death certificate

“Medical Guide for Seafarers”, p 61

Answers to assignments

Assignment 1

What is apparent death?

A condition where signs of life are non-detectable – but the person is not dead.

“Medical Guide for Seafarers”, p 59

Assignment 2

List 4 conditions under which apparent death could occur:

1. Hypothermia of whole body
2. Suffocation/drowning
3. Accidents involving electricity
4. Poisoning

“Medical Guide for Seafarers”, p 60

Assignment 3

List and describe the 3 signs of death:

1. Rigor mortis. Usually rigor appears after 3-5 hours, but may develop sooner, if the person was physically active or had a fever at the time of death. Stiffness develops fully after 8-12 hours, and disappears again after 1-3 days. Stiffness starts with jaw- and neck-muscles, and this is also where it disappears first. Stiffness goes away if you forcibly bend joints – as opposed to stiffness from hypothermia.
2. Post mortem staining. The staining appears on skin- surfaces facing downwards – visible after ½-1 hour, clearly visible after 3-5 hours, and peaks at 8-12 hours. Staining is red/purple and caused by of blood seeping from blood vessels to lower parts. Stains can move (to lower parts) the first 3-5 hours – stains do not go away.

3. Decomposition. In tropical climate decomposition may be visible after few hours, in colder regions after days. If body is keeps at temperatures lower than 4⁰ centigrade, hardly any decomposition goes on.

“Medical Guide for Seafarers”, p 60

Assignment 4

Any special storing precautions if you have a dead person on board?

Leaking of body fluids, keep refrigerated and if possible use a body-bag.

“Medical Guide for Seafarers”, p 62