

As the renewable energy sector continues to grow and the distance from wind farms to civilisation increases, so does the need for robust emergency response plans that can safely and effectively provide care for casualties until they are transferred to the emergency services.

Whilst basic first aid plays its part in the management of casualties in a remote environment, there is an absolute need for personnel who can immediately attend a casualty with the skills to assess, diagnose and treat life-threatening emergencies safely and effectively.

FACING UNIQUE RISKS WITH SPECIALIST SKILLS

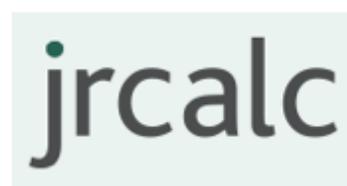
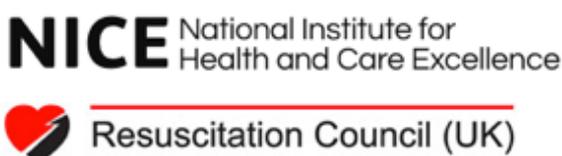
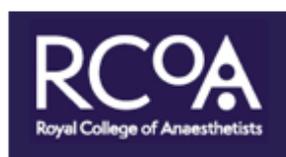
The Global Wind Organisation (GWO) has recognised this, and recently (Oct 2018) released version 1 of the GWO Enhanced First Aid (EFA) standard to guide member organisations.

In the UK, the Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care (FPHC), a sub group of the Royal College of Surgeons set and maintain the clinical standards of pre-hospital care. In an effort to standardise the descriptions of pre-hospital care providers the FPHC developed a framework to categorise all providers from first aid at level A through to a pre-hospital care doctor at Level H.

The GWO EFA syllabus broadly maps across to level C on the framework, with some skills at level D & level E. To fulfil the FPHC standards, all elements of each level must be included within the training to categorise a course at that level. In order to map the URIECA course to a level C on the FPHC framework Trauma Resus has added additional skills on top of the GWO EFA standard, to support safe and effective casualty care.

Trauma Resus has been successfully delivering the URIECA course since 2016, and has designed it specifically for those working in the onshore or offshore renewable energy environments. The aim of the course is to equip casualty carers with the knowledge, skills and confidence to assess, diagnose and treat life threatening injuries, to prevent avoidable pre-hospital care deaths.

Governed by the Faculty of Trauma & Resuscitation, the course is evidence based, and adapts standards and guidelines produced by the following organisations :-



The URIECA course is delivered over 3 days by experts in pre-hospital care and can be delivered anywhere in the UK and throughout Europe.



Key outcomes for students completing the URIECA course are :-

- Able to assess, diagnose and treat life-threatening emergencies
- Able to provide advanced first aid to casualties in remote environments
- Able to prepare casualties for rescue and transfer to the emergency services
- Able to administer analgesia (pain relief) to casualties

The syllabus includes the following :-

- Kinematics – How to perform a 'SCENE' approach and predict injuries based on the forces and motion involved.
- Catastrophic bleeding control – Learn to manage catastrophic external bleeding with the use of advanced pressure dressings, tourniquets and haemostatic dressings.
- Airway management – Develop skills in identifying and managing airway problems, including use of OP/NP and I-GEL™ airways
- Breathing – Study serious chest injuries and their management, including the titration of Oxygen therapy and the use of chest seals.
- Circulation – Examine how the circulatory system works and how to identify and treat shock
- Disability – Identify and treat head injuries and learn how to prevent secondary brain injuries
- Extremity Trauma – Identify and treat fractures and soft tissue injury using a wide range of splints and slings
- Burns – Understand the different types, severity, and treatment of burns
- Packaging and evacuation – Learn the different ways of packaging casualties for rapid evacuation and choose appropriate extrication and transport equipment for time-critical patients
- Special Circumstances – Discuss adaptations for treatment for victims of drowning or poisoning
- CPR and AEDs – Learn the Resuscitation Council 2015 guidelines and the safest and most effective way to use AEDs
- Analgesia – Understand how to assess a casualty's pain and then support the administration of both Entonox and Methoxyflurane

Upon completion of the course, students are awarded GWO basic first aid, GWO enhanced first aid and URIECA certificates. These certificates are valid for two years.



MAINTENANCE OF SKILLS COACHING

To ensure that advanced first aiders are able to safely deliver care when an emergency arises, it is essential that they receive ongoing continuous professional development, as described by the FPHC and the GWO. Trauma Resus has developed a two day maintenance of skills (MOS) coaching course, which trains members of your organisation to become MOS coaches.

Once the MOS coaches have completed the course, Trauma Resus provides all of the learning materials to enable the coaches to effectively deliver ongoing CPD to URIECA trained personnel. Trauma Resus will work with your organisation to develop a MOS plan that operates in line with your operational plans, and usually takes around two and a half hours per month.

MOS coaches undertake an annual 1 day requalification course, and receive an updated MOS package which includes any changes to clinical practice.