

Powys Safety Solutions

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In one of my roles as a Lay Public Access Defibrillator Trainer for the Welsh Ambulance Service I was recently given information that will be useful to staff expected to render First Aid to the unconscious.

Having put an unconscious, breathing person into the recovery position the ambulance service is contacted. They will now usually advise that an unconscious, breathing person should be turned onto their back again. This is as a result of a sharp climb in the number of people who are placed into the recovery position only to stop breathing, and the event not being detected by the rescuer.

Our advise is initially to follow the training guidance you have received, placing an unconscious person in the recovery position. If the ambulance service then advise turning the patient onto their back, then follow this guidance. Whatever position the patient is in, constant checking of vital signs is essential.



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