

## **STRANGULATION SIGNS & SYMPTONS**

- Redness and/or red marks
- Bruising – in area of jaw line to clavicles
- Scrapes/Abrasions
- Fingernail marks (claw marks, scratches, impressions)
- Finger marks and/or handprints
- Ligature marks
- Petechiae – eyes and/or skin
- “Blood red eyes” (subconjunctival hemorrhages)
- Swelling and/or lumps
- “Skin Crackling” (Subcutaneous Emphysema)
- Voice changes or loss of voice
- Difficulty breathing
- Difficulty swallowing
- Complaints of pain
- Ringing in ears or tinnitus
- Change in mental status and/or amnesia
  - may range from confusion to combativeness
- Loss of consciousness
- Loss of bowel and/or urination
- Vomiting (may lead to aspiration and lung damage)
- MANY VICTIMS HAVE NO VISIBLE INJURY

**Summon medical assistance for victims of strangulation!**

## **STRANGULATION INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1) What was the method of strangulation: with object, with arm, with leg, with hand(s), etc?
- 2) If an object was used: where did it come from, where is it now, and why did suspect choose it as weapon?
- 3) How many times was victim strangled?
- 4) How long did strangling last?
- 5) How tight was grip or how much pressure was exerted?
- 6) Was victim shaken? Thrown? Head banged against \_\_\_\_?
- 7) Was victim sexually assaulted?
- 8) Have victim demonstrate the strangulation.
- 9) What did the suspect say prior to, during, and after strangulation?
- 10) What threats were made by the suspect?
- 11) What was the victim thinking and feeling during incident?
- 12) What self defense measures did victim use?
- 13) Ask if victim has or is experiencing listed signs/symptoms – go through list point by point.
- 14) Ask about the duration, severity, and sequence of each sign/symptom experienced.
- 15) Is there a prior history of strangulation? If so, get details.
- 16) Did victim have any pre-existing injuries?
- 17) Is victim pregnant?
- 18) Did victim obtain medical assistance?