STRANGULATION SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- 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?