

# TRAUMATIC AMPUTATION



What should you do in case of an amputation?

Assess and secure the area

- Avoid putting your life or the other's life in danger.
- Disconnect the power source.

Call 911

- Designate someone to call and direct the emergency services to the site.
- Tell them there has been an amputation.

**NOTE!!**  
Wear gloves and eye's protectors

If the victim is unresponsive, not breathing or abnormally, start CPR<sup>(1)</sup>

Amputation?

Partial

Total

**Control hemorrhage (follow protocol 19\*) :**

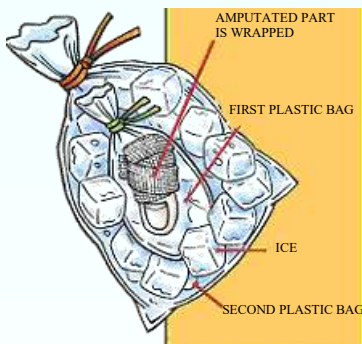
- Apply direct pressure using a compress
- Add more gauze as needed
- Raise the injured limb
- Apply a pressure bandage
- Check circulation<sup>(2)</sup>
- Reassure the victim

**Prevent shock (Follow protocol 1+\*) :**

- Monitor vital signs and state of consciousness as often as possible
- Get the victim to lie down if possible
- Loosen the victim's clothing
- Raise the victim's legs, if he or she can tolerate it
- Cover the victim to maintain it with the heat
- Do not give the victim anything to drink or eat

**Save the amputated limb or limb segments (designate someone):**

- Wrap all the amputated part(s) in sterile gauze and moisten with a physiological salt solution (NaCl 0,9%)
- Place the part(s) in a clean and waterproof plastic bag
- Seal the bag
- Place it in a second bag containing ice or an instant cold pack or cold water
- Indicate on the bag the exact time of the accident, the name of the injured worker, and describe the amputated part(s) with a permanent felt marker



**Let ambulances technicians take over quickly :**

- Give them a verbal report and the bag containing the amputated part(s)

Complete the register of accidents, incidents and first aid



<sup>1</sup>: CPR : Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation  
<sup>2</sup>: Circulation: skin colour, body heat, responsiveness  
 \* : Taken from the guide *First Aid in the Workplace*, (6<sup>th</sup> edition) Québec : CNESST, 2015.  
 Taken from the *Practical Guide for First Aiders in the Workplace : Intervention protocols* (5<sup>th</sup> edition), CNESST, 2017