

Worksite: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

Topic C030: First Aid for Amputation

Introduction: Every year hundreds of workers are injured on job sites and in production facilities by accidents which cause the amputation of fingers, hands, arms, feet, and legs. An amputation is often a life threatening injury. The victim may lose a great deal of blood quickly and risks going into shock. Amputation injuries must be treated quickly and properly not only to save the life of the victim, but also to have any chance of re-attaching the severed part.

Assess the Situation:

- *Put on any* personal protective equipment which may be necessary for the situation, such as latex gloves.
- *Determine the cause* of the injury and eliminate any hazards that may affect or endanger you as the first aid provider.
- *If the victim* is not in any danger, do not move them.
- *Treat life threatening situations first:* severe bleeding, cardiac arrest, or if the victim has stopped breathing

Get help!

- *If you're alone:* Send someone for help immediately. Amputations are serious injuries requiring medical attention.
- *If you're not alone:* Treat life-threatening injuries first, then go for help.

Stop the Bleeding: Amputation injuries may bleed profusely or very little.

- *Apply a clean dressing* to the wound with firm, steady pressure, and hold the dressing in place for up to 20 minutes.
- *Raise the injured part* and support it while maintaining pressure to the wound.
- *If bleeding continues,* use pressure points on arteries and send for medical assistance immediately. Once bleeding stops, do not remove the dressing or bleeding may start again. Apply a clean dressing over the old one and get medical treatment immediately.

Treat the Amputation:

- *If a body part* is completely amputated, wrap the severed part in a clean dry dressing. Place the body part and dressing in a dry plastic bag. Place the bag in a cool container or on ice.
- *Do not soak* the part in water, let it freeze, or come into direct contact with liquid, ice, or freezing objects.
- *If the injury* is only a partial amputation, keep the injured part as immobile as possible during treatment. Secure the injured part with splints if the victim must be transported to a medical facility.
- *Transport the part* with the victim, and make sure emergency personnel know where it is.

Shock: A person may go into shock from loss of blood or trauma.

- *If the victim is conscious* lay them down with legs elevated. If the victim is cold, cover them with a blanket or spare clothing.
- *Talk to the victim* to ensure they do not lose consciousness. If the victim does lose consciousness, move them into a recovery position lying on their side (not on their back).
- *Reassure the victim* to keep them calm. Seek medical attention as soon as possible.

Conclusion: The re-attachment of the amputated part is now possible due to advancements in surgical technology. The possibility of re-attaching the severed part greatly depends on the care and treatment given to the victim, and the amputated part prior to the arrival of emergency medical technicians. Be careful to never exceed your level of first aid training.

Employee Attendance: (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.