

Crush Injuries

Crush injuries may result from a variety of situations, including vehicle entrapment, falling debris, industrial accident or by prolonged pressure to a part of the body on an immobile casualty due to their body weight.

Crushing force applied to the head, neck, chest or abdomen can cause death from breathing or heart failure so must be removed promptly.

Crush Injuries

Management

- ✓ Ensure the scene is safe, and that there is no risk of injury to the rescuer or bystanders
- ✓ **Call Triple Zero (000)**
- ✓ If it is safe and physically possible, all crushing forces should be removed from the victim as soon as possible
- ✓ A victim with a crush injury may not complain of pain, and there may be no external signs of injury. All victims who have been subjected to crush injury, including their own body weight, should be taken to hospital
- ✓ Keep the victim warm and treat any bleeding
- ✗ **DO NOT** leave the victim except if necessary to call an ambulance
- ✗ **DO NOT** use a tourniquet for the first aid management of a crush injury

Crush syndrome

Crush syndrome typically results from muscle destruction, and, on subsequent object removal, disruption of the body's normal chemistry by the released byproducts. This can result in kidney, heart and other problems.

