

Q: What is a critical injury?

A: The Occupational Health & Safety Act of Ontario (OHSA), defines a critical injury as:

“Any injury that:

- Places a life in jeopardy
- Produces unconsciousness
- Causes a substantial loss of blood
- Involves the fracture of an arm or a leg
- Involves the amputation of a leg, arm, hand or foot
- Involves a burn to a major part of the body
- Causes the loss of sight in an eye”

Q: What is the procedure for handling a critical injury?

A: When an employee is critically injured, witness(es) to the accident or anyone who happens upon the accident scene shall:

- Call 911
- attend the immediate medical needs of the injured person
- secure the area to ensure that no wreckage, article or thing is disturbed, destroyed, or removed*

Key Responsibilities:

Health and Safety Office and Employee Wellness

- Contact the manager/supervisor of the injured worker
- Determine whether a critical injury has occurred and establish who will lead the investigation with the designated worker representative
- Contact the designated worker member of the site or school JHSC
- Investigate the incident in conjunction with the supervisor/manager and designated worker representative
- Recommend and document steps to prevent recurrence
- Give timely written notice of the incident to the Ministry of Labour, JHSC and the affected union

Supervisor/ Manager

- Investigate incident in conjunction with Health and Safety Office and designated JHSC worker representative
- Implement steps to prevent recurrence as determined by the investigation

Worker Representative

- Investigate incident in conjunction with Health and Safety Office and injured worker’s supervisor/manager

Δ Section 51 (2) of the OHSA – No one may interfere with, disturb, destroy, alter or carry away any wreckage, article or thing from the incident scene except for:

- ❖ Saving life or relieving human suffering;
- ❖ Maintaining an essential public utility service or a public transportation system;
- ❖ or preventing unnecessary damage to equipment or property.