



OCCUPATIONAL
M E D I C I N E
P H Y S I C I A N S

FULL SERVICE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CLINICS EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

OUR EXPERIENCE

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OUR LOCATIONS

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ACCIDENTAL AMPUTATION

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

An amputation involves the severance of a body part, most frequently caused by heavy machinery or heavy industrial equipment.

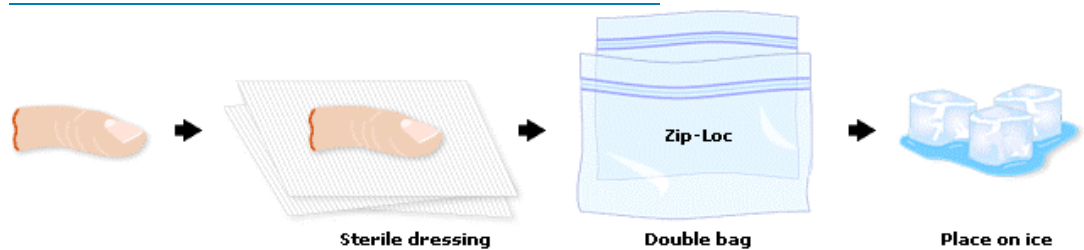
Bone and other body tissues often are exposed. Bleeding and shock can occur, besides the complications of infection and disability.

Your responsibility in the workplace is to give the employee immediate treatment in the occupational health unit or use emergency response personnel. You will want to preserve the severed part and take steps to enhance its viability.

TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION!

- The employee may feel faint or dizzy due to the pain, bleeding, or both, so have them to lie down.
- Call an ambulance – since the employee could go into shock if blood loss is significant.
- Control the bleeding by applying firm pressure and elevating the extremity.
- Cleanse area with normal saline or just tap water.
- Wrap or cover the injured area with a sterile dressing or a clean cloth until medical treatment is received.

WHAT DO I DO WITH THE AMPUTATED PART?



[MORE SPECIFIC DETAILS ON FOLLOWING PAGES](#)

FULL SERVICE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CLINICS EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

WHAT DO I DO WITH THE AMPUTATED PART? (CON'T)

- Recover the amputated part if possible and transport it to the hospital with the injured person.
- If the part cannot be found right away, transport the injured person to the hospital and bring the amputated part to the hospital when it is found – but REMEMBER – TIME IS IMPORTANT!
- **Do not compromise employee's life to save the part!**
- Gently rinse off dirt and debris with clean water. DO NOT SCRUB.
- Wrap the amputated part in a sterile or clean dressing – saline soaked if possible. DO NOT IMMERSSE THE PART IN ANY SOLUTION.
- Put the wrapped part in a plastic bag or waterproof container.
- Place the plastic bag or waterproof container on ice.
- The goal is to keep the amputated part cool, but NOT to cause more damage from the cold ice.
- Elevate injured area.
- Wrap or cover the injured area with a sterile dressing or clean cloth.
- Apply pressure if the injured area is bleeding. You do not want to cut off blood flow to the area – so pressure needs to be light – just enough to slow down blood loss.
- Gently splint the injured area to prevent movement or further damage.

WHERE DO I TAKE THE EMPLOYEE?

Take the employee to the emergency room immediately or call EMS. Time is of the essence!

If you have any questions regarding accidents, amputation, other services or would like an inservice at your company regarding this subject, please contact Amy McCulloch, RN, Client Service Coordinator at 812-283-2013.