



Tailgate/Toolbox Safety Training

Safety Services Company-Safety Meeting Division, PO Box 6408 Yuma, AZ 85366-6408 Toll Free (866) 204-4786



Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____
Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 5: First Aid for Lacerations

Introduction: A laceration is usually caused by an accidental cut, tear, gouge, or scrape of the skin. Lacerations can be minor cuts and scrapes, or they can be serious gaping gouges that, if not quickly attended, present the risk of the person losing so much blood that they could possibly die. It is important that employees recognize the degrees of seriousness and understand the different treatment processes for laceration injuries. It is equally important to recognize and avoid hazards on the jobsite that can lead to injuries of this kind.

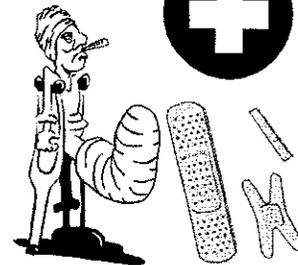


For minor lacerations where serious blood loss is not a risk, the wound(s) should be cleaned as thoroughly as possible, antibacterial ointment applied, and the appropriate dressing applied to cover the wound. The victim should be taken to a medical facility if sutures are needed to close the wound.

When a severe laceration injury is encountered where serious blood loss is apparent, the person giving first aid must assess the injury to determine the measures required to control external bleeding. If gross bleeding is not controlled, the risk of a person bleeding to death is increased.

The three primary types of external bleeding are Capillary Bleeding, Venous Bleeding, and Arterial Bleeding.

- **Capillary Bleeding** is caused by abrasions that have scraped open the tiny capillaries just below the skin's surface. Capillary bleeding usually slows or stops before any serious blood loss occurs.
- **Venous Bleeding** is from deeper within the tissue and is usually controlled with a small amount of direct pressure. Venous bleeding is usually not life-threatening unless the injury is severe and/or blood loss is not controlled.
- **Arterial Bleeding** is caused by an injury that has lacerated an artery. This is the most important and most difficult type of blood loss to control. It is characterized by spurting blood that is bright red in color. Even a small, deep arterial puncture wound can produce life-threatening arterial blood loss.



The person rendering first aid should control bleeding according to the following steps:

Note: Prior to providing any first aid care for bleeding, put on personal protective equipment to protect yourself from bloodborne pathogens.

- **Direct Pressure** – Direct pressure bleeding control is exactly what the name implies – applying firm pressure to the site of bleeding. This is accomplished by placing a dressing (preferably sterile gauze) directly over the laceration and applying pressure. Applying direct pressure will require all of the first responder's attention, preventing them from providing other aid, such as running for help.
- **Elevation** – Next, elevate the extremity with the laceration. Gravity makes it difficult for blood to "climb up" up the elevated extremity. Caution must be exercised when elevating an extremity when fractures or dislocations are suspected.
- **Pressure Points** – Blood loss may also be controlled by applying deep pressure to the main artery nearest the wound. This will decrease blood lost from the wound by using manual pressure to squeeze the main artery closed. There are several primary pressure points that one should become familiar with such as the femoral artery in the groin, or the brachial artery on the inside of the upper arm (never apply direct pressure to the neck).



Because a severe laceration can cause a person to bleed out in only a few minutes, controlling blood loss is an absolute priority. Use any means possible to stop excessive blood loss and get the person to an emergency medical facility as quickly as possible. If the person has been impaled by a foreign object, do not remove the object, leave this matter for the emergency room personnel to handle.

Conclusion: It is important to note that many injuries involving lacerations happen because the person was not wearing proper personal protective equipment (hardhat, boots, gloves, & etc.). Finally, always be aware of your surroundings and take the needed few extra minutes out of each day to inspect your work area. This includes machines, tools, or whatever else could cause injury. Serious lacerations that involve severe blood loss are a frightening experience and a calm, trained, rapid response is required to save a person's life. Apply these guidelines, along with other personal study and training, so that you will be able to properly handle situations involving laceration injuries.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures: _____
(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations. The first aid information provided is intended to be general in nature and is based upon the "best available" guidelines. No results either general or specific are represented or guaranteed.