



FRACTURES



Escambia County, Florida – 1st Responder Medical Protocol

Assessment

- A. Assure ABCs, see [General Supportive Care Protocol](#).
- B. Obvious or suspected fractures and/or dislocations.

Treatment


- A. Remove appropriate clothing in order to fully inspect the extremities for any significant injuries.
- B. Assess neurovascular status.
 - 1. If obvious fracture or dislocation is present and pulses are absent, attempt to reduce the injury to the normal or approximate anatomical location.
 - 2. Immediately reassess neurovascular status.
- C. Cover open fractures with sterile dressing and secure with tape or bandage.
- D. Splint as appropriate, immobilize the joint above and below the fracture; immobilize the bone above and below any dislocations.
- E. Severely angulated mid-shaft fractures may be straightened by gentle, continuous traction if necessary for immobilization and/or extrication.
- F. Injuries of the joint should be immobilized in the position found.
- G. With open fractures, retraction of bone ends is not desired, but may be required for secure immobilization.
- H. Pad splint to prevent pressure points.
- I. Do not apply ice or cold packs directly to the skin.
- J. Fractures of the long bones or of the pelvis can be significant enough to cause shock.



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Page 1 of 2

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- K. When in doubt-splint.
- L. Reassess continuously the circulatory and neurological status after splinting.

Report


- A. Report as indicated in [*General Supportive Care Protocol*](#).



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Page 2 of 2

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