

BACKGROUND ON INJURIES

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Injury - something from outside the body damages tissues, the damaged area is called an injury.

- Severity of injuries depends on what tissues are injured. Injury to a vital organ, or tissues of a vital system, i.e. the nervous system is serious.
- Severity of injury depends on how bad the injury is. A bone being broken in half may not be as serious as a shattered bone.
- Severity of injury depends on how much tissue is injured. If a hand is burned it is likely more serious than a burned finger.

Injuries result from too much energy applied to the body.

- A thermal burn is an injury caused by too much heat energy
- An acid burn is an injury caused by too much chemical energy
- A broken bone is caused by too much mechanical energy
- A stopped heart from an electric shock is an injury caused by too much electrical energy

Factors determining an injury:

- How intense the energy was
- How long the energy was present
- What part of the body the energy was the energy applied to

Mechanisms of injury that require an ambulance right away:

- A free fall from more than 6.5 meters about 20 feet
- A vehicle collision that shows signs of a severe impact (major vehicle damage)
- Severe damage to the inside of the vehicle that looks like impact caused with casualty inside i.e. bent steering wheel, broken windshield.
- Casualty was thrown from the vehicle
- At least one casualty is dead
- The vehicle rolled over
- Casualty was struck by a vehicle moving more than 30 km per hour