

## SAFETY

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**Infection** - The state or condition in which the body (or part of the body) is invaded by an infectious agent (e.g., a bacterium, fungus or virus), which multiplies and produces an injurious effect (active infection).

**Universal Precautions for first aiders:**

- hand washing
- wearing gloves
- minimizing mouth-to-mouth contact during artificial respiration through the correct use of barrier device in the form of a CPR mask or shield
- the careful handling of sharp objects.

**Being Safe in Violent Situations**

- use caution at all times
- be aware of your surroundings
- first priority is to protect your own safety as you are more valuable as a first aider than as a casualty
- if the person you are rendering first aid to becomes abusive or violent, slowly retreat to a safe distance where you can observe them, call police and await their arrival
- if you encounter a violent individual avoid looking at them directly in the eyes and stand at a 45 degree angle to them with a minimum distance of 4 feet, avoid confrontational language, slowly retreat to a safe distance where you can observe them, call police and await their arrival
- if you think a crime has been committed, do not touch or remove anything, call police to the scene
- in the case of an attempted suicide involving hanging or binding, do not untie the knots but cut the material, knots in tact if you are going to perform first aid

**While waiting for police to arrive:**

- protect your safety and the safety of others if possible
- give first aid for any injuries and be sensitive to casualty's and victims emotional state
- keep the onlookers away to ensure privacy of casualties
- leave everything at the scene as is avoiding any evidence that may be useful in police investigation
- remain at the scene when police arrive and leave when told to do so as you may need answer police questions

**Child Abuse** - The emotional, psychological, physical, sexual or social abuse of a child including neglect. Includes physical injury, sexual maltreatment, emotional maltreatment, deprivation of necessities, or combinations for a child by an individual responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances indicating that the child's welfare is harmed or threatened. The term encompasses both acts and omissions on the part of a responsible person.

**Signs of Child Abuse**

- injuries inconsistent with what a child could do
- unusually shaped bruises or burns
- the child's apparent fear of the parent or caregiver

If you suspect child abuse, do not accuse anyone. Instead, insist the child receives medical help for injuries, which will permit a full medical assessment. Call the police or an ambulance to the scene to ensure the child sees a doctor; if it is not apparent the child will be taken to get medical attention by their caregiver or family member.

**Other alternatives:** Call a child welfare agency such as Children's Aid Society and report any suspicions and you can remain anonymous