

SPINAL INJURY

Ensure Safety
for Self and Others

Signs & Symptoms

Some or all of the following:

- Evidence of head injury or trauma
- Abnormal position of head or neck
- Nausea, headache, dizziness
- Tenderness, pain
- Altered sensations - numbness, tingling, pins and needles in the hands or feet
- Loss of movement and/or feeling to arms and/or legs
- Altered conscious state
- Breathing difficulties
- Shock
- Change in muscle tone (flaccid or stiff)
- Loss of bladder or bowel control



HAZARD = FURTHER MOVEMENT
Causing further injury

RISK = DAMAGE TO SPINAL CORD
Causing loss of movement and feeling

Do not move location unless in a dangerous situation

Urgently Call Triple Zero (000)

Reassure - Tell them to keep still

MANUALLY SUPPORT NECK

Until the ambulance arrives - This is vital

- Move to the casualty's head
- Position yourself so you are stable
- Gently hold the casualty's head
- Support without movement

IF UNCONSCIOUS

- Align and immobilise the neck with your hands
- Roll on his/her side
- Position neck to neutral to ensure an adequate airway
- Manually support the neck.