



Defining and responding to critical injuries in the workplace

What is a critical injury?

Regulation 420/21 under the Occupational Health and Safety Act defines a critical injury as an injury of a serious nature that results in any one of the following:

- Places life in jeopardy.
- Produces unconsciousness.
- Results in a substantial loss of blood.
- Involves the fracture or amputation of a leg or arm (but not a finger or toe).
- Consists of burns to a major portion of the body.
- Causes the loss of sight in an eye.

What must be done when a critical injury incident takes place?

- 1. Stop work and provide aid:** Call 911 if needed, and care for the injured worker(s). Get everyone to safety.
- 2. Secure the scene and report the incident:** Contact the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) and emergency personnel, if required. Prevent further entry to the incident area until the appropriate parties are on scene.
- 3. Conduct an incident investigation:** In addition to the employer and supervisors, other workplace members (such as a joint health and safety committee member representing workers) will be involved in investigating the scene, collecting information, interviewing witnesses, and forming a report with the goal of preventing recurrence.

Having proactive hazard controls in place means that problems can be identified and solved before anyone is injured or property is damaged. For more information, [contact Workplace Safety North](#).