# 11.04 SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES FIELD AMPUTATION

## BLS Treatment
- If crush injury, refer to Protocol 11.02 Crush Syndrome.
- Request Amputation Team (minimum 3-person procedure).
- Clear access to chest, head and as far distally on entrapped extremity as possible.
- Position of comfort.
- NPO
- Assess circulation, airway, breathing, and responsiveness.
- Oxygen as indicated.
- Provide Spinal Motion Restriction as indicated or position of comfort as indicated.
- Appropriately splint suspected fractures/instability as indicated.
- Bandage wounds/control bleeding as indicated.

## ALS Treatment
- IV or IO of Normal Saline TKO.
- For pain: may administer Morphine.

### Treat for Crush Injury, as indicated.
- Expose extremity as much as possible. Assist amputation team during procedure, as needed.
- Transport amputated limb with patient to hospital following procedure.

## Comments
- Be conservative and apply spinal motion restriction precautions if a suspicion of cervical spine injury exists and time permits. Do not delay life-saving patient care to perform interventions.
- Rapid transport of the post-amputation patient to a trauma center is critical. Paramedic may assist with field amputation. Performing amputation/procedural sedation is not in the current paramedic scope of practice and sedation medications may only be administered by physicians or nurses in the field.

### Amputation Team Guidelines (Physicians ONLY)
- Patient consent.
- Prep extremity.
- Establish proximal and distal control, if possible.
- Maintain clean, if not sterile, technique.
- Sedation: Preferred medication is Midazolam.
- Anesthesia: Preferred medications are Ketamine for prolonged procedure and Methohexital for short procedure.
- Provide pain control: Preferred medication is Fentanyl.
- Perform amputation using scalpel, cable saw and extremity tourniquet, as available.
- Accompany patient during transport to hospital.
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- **Equipment list for amputation:** (should be kept in a “go bag” accessible for rapid transport with team) EQUIPMENT NEEDS: O.R. amputation pack with:
  - Cable saw
  - Scalpel with # 10 blade
  - Scalpel with # 15 blade
  - Pneumatic tourniquet
  - Non-pneumatic tourniquet
  - Gauze
  - Kerlex
  - Betadine and betadine applicators
  - Needle driver
  - Tissue forceps, long and short
  - 4-0 Ethilon suture material on a curved needle
  - Bone wax
  - Coagulation dressing material
  - Fentanyl 500 micrograms
  - Midazolam 20 milligrams
  - Ketamine 500 milligrams
  - Methohexital 300 milligrams
  - Syringes assorted sizes
  - Needles assorted sizes

**Training requirements of Amputation Team:**
- All personnel: Current licensure and credentialing at hospital of origin.
- Operator: General Surgeon or Orthopedist (with O.R. privileges).
- Assistant Operator: Anesthesiologist or Emergency Physician (with sedation privileges).
- Second Assistant: Operating Room or Emergency Department technician.
- Documentation of field amputation on prehospital Patient Care Record.
- Sentinel Event: 100% review by Trauma System Audit Committee and Hospital Process Improvement Committee.

**Base Hospital Contact Criteria**
- Team activation: Requested by scene commander; dispatched by request through Department of Emergency Communications to Base Hospital Physician. Base Physician contacts Trauma Center Medical Director for approval, then the team on-call as designated by participating physician group and provided to Base Hospital.