

LEGISLATIVE INTERPRETATIONS

Topic: Spine Boards	Issued by: Director, Chief Compliance Office
Statute: First Aid Regulation – 2004-130	Date Issued: July 2016
Subsection: Schedule B – Module 8	Date Revised:

Question

What is WorkSafeNB's expectation for training regarding immobilization techniques using hands, cervical collars and spine boards?

Answer

Immobilization techniques are meant to immobilize an injured worker until trained help arrives. In most instances this can be done with practical training using hands. WorkSafeNB assumes that immobilization techniques using cervical collars and spine boards are taught in theory and are not required to be taught in practice, as these techniques require advanced training that is outside the scope of the Workplace Standard First Aid Course. At a minimum, the first aid provider should recognize that these techniques are for use by people trained in immobilization techniques.

If a workplace identifies **spinal cord injuries** as a high risk and work is at a remote site where it is necessary to transfer an injured worker from an isolated site to an ambulance, the designated first aid provider must not move the victim and must wait for qualified assistance, unless not doing so puts the injured worker in a life-threatening situation.