

# Diamond Peak Ski Patrol

## Medical Treatment Protocol

### Fractured Femur

Fractured femurs are serious injuries. Combined with other injuries, these patients may be in critical condition. Hypovolemic shock is the largest killer.

Patients with possible femur fractures need to have their vital signs (for our purposes in the field this means pulse, respirations and level of responsiveness (LOR)) monitored frequently (every 10 minutes) and recorded.

All potential femur fractures must have their thigh exposed to assess for an open wound. Diamond Peak policy is to remove the boot(s) and sock(s) of all potential femur fracture patients. This is essential for the assessment of distal pulses/capillary refill and the application of the traction splint.

The Sager traction splint is the splint of choice at Diamond Peak. If a Sager splint is not available, there are Hare Traction Splints available for backup. All patrollers must be familiar with the proper/appropriate application of both of these splints. In the event of a possible bilateral femur fracture, there is a bilateral Sager splint available.

Due to the extreme potential for neck or back injuries in conjunction with a femur fracture, all patients being treated for a possible femur fracture will be placed on a backboard with full spinal precautions.

### Treatment

- Patient assessment, expose fracture site and assess neuro/vascular status
- Oxygen
- Traction splint
- Backboard with full spinal precautions
- Call for Paramedics immediately
- Transport

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