

RAPID EXTIRPATION OF A CHILD FROM A CAR SEAT

NOTE: This procedure is used for children that meet the criteria for a rapid extrication or if the child's car seat is inadequate for immobilization.

- Take appropriate body substance isolation precautions.
- Stabilize the child in the car seat
A rescuer stabilizes the child's car seat in an upright position while rescuer #1 initiates and maintains manual inline stabilization of the head and neck in the neutral position.
- Assess each extremity for the presence of distal pulse, capillary refill, motor function and sensory function.
- Remove car seat straps and apply collar
Rescuer #2 releases or cuts the straps of the car seat. Whenever possible you should avoid cutting the straps unless it is necessary. Apply an appropriately sized cervical collar. If you do not have a collar that will fit the child then you may use a towel roll around the neck.

NOTE: If you are using a commercially made pediatric immobilization device in place of a long backboard, make sure you follow the manufactures guidelines and instructions for the devices use and application.

- Place the car seat on a long backboard
While continuing to maintain inline stabilization, lay the car seat on the long backboard so the child is now in the supine position.
- Remove the child from the car seat
Rescuer #2 stabilizes the child's chest and axillary regions with his/her hands. At the direction of rescuer #1, who is continuing to maintain inline stabilization, the child is slid out of the car seat onto the long backboard.
- Fill voids and secure child to the long backboard
In order to maintain an open airway and a neutral position of the child's head, you may need to place padding under the child's shoulders and back regions. Do not over pad and do not cause excessive movement that will compromise the child's spine. Place blanket rolls or other types of padding along side the patient to stabilize the child to the backboard. Use tape or straps to secure the child's torso, pelvis, and legs to the long backboard. Use towels as head blocks and secure the child's head to the backboard.
- During transport continue to check the straps to assure they have not loosened.

NOTE: Do not secure any straps or tape in a manner which may hinder the patient's airway or breathing at any time.