

CHAPTER 4 FIRST AID FOR FRACTURES

INTRODUCTION

A fracture is any break in the continuity of a bone. Fractures can cause total disability or in some cases death. On the other hand, they can most often be treated so there is complete recovery. A great deal depends upon the first aid the individual receives before he is moved. First aid includes immobilizing the fractured part in addition to applying lifesaving measures. *The basic splinting principle is to immobilize the joints above and below any fracture.*

4-1. Kinds of Fractures

See figure 4-1 for detailed illustration.

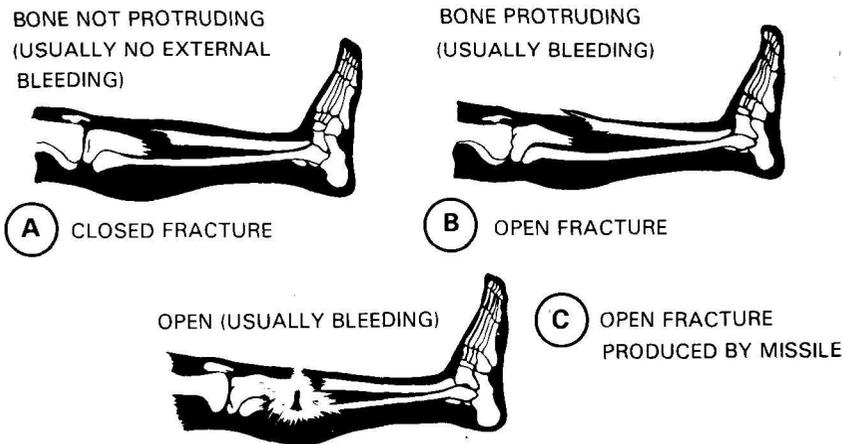


Figure 4-1. Kinds of fractures (Illustrated A thru C).

a. Closed Fracture. A closed fracture is a broken bone that does not break the overlying skin. Tissue beneath the skin may be damaged. A *dislocation* is when a joint, such as a knee, ankle, or shoulder, is not in proper position. A *sprain* is when the connecting tissues of the joints have been torn. *Dislocations* and *sprains* should be treated as *closed fractures*.

b. Open Fracture. An open fracture is a broken bone that breaks (pierces) the overlying skin. The broken bone may come through the skin,

