

The spinal cord is a bundle of nerves that runs down the middle of the back. It carries signals back and forth between the body and the brain. A spinal cord injury interrupts these signals. Spinal cord injuries can occur after an accident that fractures or dislocates the vertebrae. Most injuries don't cut through the spinal cord. Instead, they cause damage when pieces of bone tear into the cord or press down on the nerves that carry signals.

Spinal cord injuries can be complete or incomplete. With a complete spinal cord injury, the cord can't send signals below the level of the injury. As a result, a person is paralyzed below the injury. With an incomplete injury, a person will have some movement and sensation below the injury.

People with a spinal cord injury may have the following depending where the injury is located:

- Bowel and bladder control issues
- Feeding/swallowing difficulties
- Ventilator dependency
- Difficulty breathing
- Tight or limp muscles
- Paraplegia or Quadriplegia
- Difficulty walking
- Pain

BLACKBURN'S staff will match patients' needs with the proper equipment and supplies that allow them to continue their current activity level at home.

The following list is an example of equipment and supplies a person might need after a spinal cord injury.



United Spinal Association For local support resources, contact

Spinal Cord Resource Center

www.spinalcord.org

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