TRAUMA PATIENT

assess conscious state

AWAKE & COOPERATIVE

Apply Canadian C spine or NEXUS criteria if appropriate and trained

Patients who pass this stage will not require imaging of the C-spine, but may require transport for treatment of other injuries

DECREASED or UNCONSCIOUS

Consider C-collar & rigid board only if required to facilitate extrication

Extricate where possible onto a vac mat with addition of pelvic binder if clinically indicated. Splint to skin. Minimal handling. Use scoop stretcher rather than log roll on/off extrication board

if clinical suspicion of isolated C-cpine injury, allow patient to determine ‘position of comfort’ & offer soft collar

BASIC EMS ONLY

Consider airway protection, transport in left lateral position without hard collar

ADVANCED EMS

Consider intubation if necessary
Transport protected airway supine
Immobilise entire spine with vac mat
Head blocks or soft collar to minimise subsequent head movement in transit

determine available EMS skill mix & transport options