

Seizures\_1991.txt  
SECTION XV  
SEIZURES

Seizures are fairly common occurrences, but are very misunderstood! Seizures, per se, are not a specific condition. Rather, they may be caused by many different types of conditions such as insulin shock, high fevers, viral infections of the brain, head injuries or drug reactions.

When seizures recur with no identifiable cause, the person is said to have epilepsy.

#### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Many individuals have a warning AURA (or sensation) before the onset of a seizure. Many times, a person about to have a seizure will physically move themselves from danger (as from the edge of a train platform) before the seizure begins.

Seizures can range from mild to severe. Mild seizures may take place and end in a matter of seconds.

Severe seizures may involve uncontrollable muscle spasms, rigidity, loss of consciousness, loss of bladder and bowel control, and in some cases, breathing that stops temporarily.

Many epileptics carry cards or bracelets which identify their condition.

#### FIRST AID

Summon professional help. Prevent the person from injuring themselves by moving furniture or equipment.

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DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RESTRAIN A PERSON SUFFERING A SEIZURE AND DO NOT PUT ANYTHING IN THEIR MOUTH!

Loosen clothing. If they vomit, turn on their side to allow fluids to drain. Stay with the person until they are fully conscious. If trained, administer rescue breathing or CPR, if required.