

UW Whitewater Police



Tourniquet and Hemostatic Agents

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Special Instructions:

Approved By: Chief Kiederlen	Effective Date: 8/22/2016	Revised Date: 8/9/2022	Revision number: 3
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I. Purpose

To guide officers of UW-Whitewater Police Department on the use of tourniquets and hemostatic agents.

II. Policy

Law enforcement officers, other emergency services personnel, and the public injured by penetrating objects may suffer from uncontrolled hemorrhage. With the goal of maximizing survival, Law Enforcement officers of UW-Whitewater Police Department (UWWPD) have been issued tourniquets as part of an officer safety and crisis response strategy. This strategy includes response to “Active Killer” incidents where immediate care is needed to prevent loss of life. Tourniquets are designed to treat severe wounds to arms and legs with profuse bleeding. The application of a tourniquet may be the best initial option to control severe extremity bleeding.

Hemostatic agents may be used in conjunction with a tourniquet to assist with controlling severe bleeding. Hemostatic agents may also be used independently to control severe bleeding in areas where a tourniquet would not be effective.

It is the policy of UWWPD that the issued tourniquets will be carried as defined in this General Order.

III. Procedure

A. Tourniquets

1. Personnel will receive initial training using the Department of Justice Law Enforcement Standards Board (DOJ LESB) curriculum and training materials during tourniquet distribution. Training will also be conducted with new recruits and at in-service First Aid training on tourniquet usage.
2. The issued tourniquet is to be carried while on-duty by all uniformed officers in active patrol status, this includes Residence and Academic Officers. Sworn administrative personnel should carry the tourniquet when outside of the Police Department building.

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3. Officers should be cognizant of their training in regards to alternatives to the standard issued tourniquet.
 4. Officers will ensure the department issued tourniquet is properly cared for and report any wear and tear or operational problems to a supervisor as soon as possible.
 5. The tourniquet will be used in a manner consistent with the established training and as part of the overall sequence for treatment of hemorrhage control (direct pressure, pressure bandages, and hemostatic agents).
- B. Hemostatic Agents
1. Hemostatic agents will be accessible to officers in the “Active Killer” response bags located in the squad cars, in the UWWPD Substations and in the supply room of Police Department.
 2. These products act to arrest bleeding or hemorrhage. Although they may be useful adjuncts, these agents do not have the same simplicity and effectiveness of pressure dressings or tourniquets. These issues serve to limit these agents to being useful adjuncts, rather than primary treatments, for extremity hemorrhage.
- C. General Guidelines for Both
1. Always follow universal precautions for blood-borne pathogens and follow training guidelines and manufacturer’s instructions when applying a tourniquet or a hemostatic agent.
 2. Any use of a tourniquet or hemostatic agent will be reported to a supervisor and documented in an incident report as soon as possible.