

PROCEDURE
12.17

EFFECTIVE
DATE
11-18-16

Eugene
Police Department



Tourniquets

12.17.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Police officers are often the first public safety employees to arrive at an emergency and are uniquely positioned to provide lifesaving care to themselves, other officers, or community members who have sustained significant trauma and are in danger of dying from critical and rapid blood loss. Such trauma can be the result of an industrial accident, vehicle collision, or the intentional acts of another such as a knife or gunshot wound.

This procedure applies to all personnel that, as a part of their normal duties answer calls for service, investigate crimes and perform any other duties that places them in proximity to accidents or injuries that would necessitate a police response. This procedure describes the department-issued equipment to be included, training and maintenance responsibilities, and expectations for employees in the use of this equipment.

12.17.2 TOURNIQUET USE AND CARE

The tourniquet is for use in instances where the injury would result in potentially life threatening blood loss. The use of the tourniquet is a temporary aid to increase the chances of survival until a higher level of care can be accessed. Tourniquets provided for the department are single use only, and not to be used for training or practice. The use of a tourniquet will be documented in a police report.

Tourniquets should not be placed below the elbow or knee, since arterial blood loss may not be stopped for anatomical reasons. The windlass should be tightened until blood loss stops. When practical, note on the tourniquet the time it was placed on the victim.

A department-approved tourniquet will be issued to each employee who requests one. Tourniquets should generally be worn on the person. If worn externally it must be carried in a department approved holder. A personal tourniquet may be carried in addition to the department issued tourniquet if desired.

Tourniquets that become unserviceable will immediately be turned in and replaced with a serviceable one. The Tourniquet is encouraged for carry, but is not required at this time.

12.17.3 SELECTION AND TRAINING

The Office of Professional Standards Lieutenant shall be responsible for selecting the department issued tourniquet.

The Professional Standards Lieutenant will provide new employee and appropriate refresher training on the use of the tourniquet, including scenario-based decision-making and application of the tourniquet.