

# Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

## II-41 CAT TOURNIQUET

### Indications:

- Treatment of life-threatening hemorrhage in pediatric and adult patients that cannot be controlled by direct pressure or immediately obvious that direct pressure alone will not provide hemorrhage control.

### Contraindications:

- Hemorrhage that can be easily controlled by direct pressure.

### Prepare Equipment:

- Take appropriate body substance isolation precautions.
- Remove the CAT Tourniquet from packaging.



### Application of the CAT Tourniquet:

- Place the CAT Tourniquet over the affected extremity.
  - Place approximately 1 inch above the bleeding site.
- Route the self-adhering band around the extremity.
- Feed the strap through the inner slit and then outer slit of the buckle
- Pull the self-adhering band tight and secure it back on itself with Velcro strap.
- Twist the windlass rod until the bleeding stops.
  - Typically requires 3 or less rotations of the windlass.
  - More than 3 rotations may be needed to stop the bleeding.
    - Use caution not to over torque the windlass and cause breakage.
- Lock the rod in place with the windlass clip.
- Secure the rod with the windlass strap
  - Pull the windlass strap across the clip and rod, secures on the other side.
- Document the universal symbol "TK" and time of application on tape and place in conspicuous location.

### Notes:

- Once the tourniquet is in place, it stays in place during pre-hospital care.
- Clinical studies and military use has shown the application of a tourniquet does not necessarily mean the affected extremity will be lost.
- Don't hesitate to use a tourniquet to control a life-threatening hemorrhage. .