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Real World Usage Data

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This is a living document that is continually updated whenever data is collected involving Snakestaff Systems (“SSS”) products that are used in real world (non-training) situations.

The primary purpose of this document is for internal use by SSS to monitor product performance, especially when there is a failure, and to collect as much data as possible in order to rapidly fix potential defects and improve future generations of product releases. By making this data public there is a secondary benefit of promoting transparency to our current and potential customers so they may make the most informed decisions possible with respect to their equipment requirements.

This document is not meant to replace but instead supplement clinical studies, which will be summarized in a separate document as those studies conclude and the data is made available.

The quality and amount of data will vary by each situation but SSS will do its best to obtain all information available such as police and EMS reports. The source of reported information will be provided for each instance. Most incidents are initially reported via email, but SSS employs a follow up electronic questionnaire that individuals are able to complete that provides additional information.

The data in this document is presented in a standardized format but is otherwise unchanged from what is received directly via email, phone, or in-person conversations with the individuals that applied the SSS products. Personally identifiable information has been removed from any reports.

The data is presented in chronological order in which the incidents are known to have occurred. If the incident date is unknown, the date the information was reported to SSS is used.

Any inference or additional comments by SSS will be clearly indicated so as to be distinguished from the data reported.

Medical and police reports can be terse with abbreviations and a lack of punctuation. Therefore some excerpts in this document may be altered slightly to provide context or to correct grammatical, spelling, and punctuation mistakes with the use of brackets “[]” according to standard practices. Excerpts will not be changed in such a way that it alters the original meaning or intent.

SSS will not distinguish between the incidents and data covered in this report. In other words, SSS will include all known real world uses regardless of severity, patient outcome, and product effectiveness.

If you are personally involved in, know of, or have additional information on a situation in which SSS products are used, or believe the information in this document is incorrect, please contact support@snakestaffsystems.com immediately to provide impactful information that will help us continue creating and improving life-saving products.

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DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

Applicator - The person applying the SSS product in the reported situation. This may be different from the person who actually gives the report.

Reporter - The person who relays the information to SSS. This may be different from the person who actually applies the product in a reported situation.

Incident Information

1. **Date** - The date the product was applied, not the date the incident was reported to SSS. If the application date is not known, then the reported date is used.
2. **Location** - City, if known, and state (US) or country (international) where the product was applied.
3. **MOI** - Mechanism of injury or a brief description of the incident, such as “Gunshot wound” or “Car accident.”
4. **Pictures** - Were any pictures (or video) of the incident provided or collected?
5. **Applied By** - The applicator’s occupation or level of experience.
 - a. **CIV** : Civilian
 - b. **CIV+** : Civilian with prior first responder experience or training
 - c. **LEO** : Law enforcement officer
 - d. **LEO+** : Law enforcement officer with advanced medical training
 - e. **EMS** : Emergency medical services or firefighter
 - f. **MIL** : Military, active or veteran
 - g. **MP** : Medical Practitioner
6. **On Duty** - If a first responder, active military, or medical professional, was the applicator on duty at the time of application?
7. **Self-Applied** - Did the applicator apply the product to themselves?
8. **One-Handed** - In the case of self-application, was the product applied with one hand?
9. **Reporting** - How was the information provided to SSS, such as email or phone conversation. Any law enforcement or medical reports that were collected will be listed in addition to any reports that have been requested but not yet received.
10. **Case #** - The case, file, or report number for any applicable law enforcement or medical reports that are known for the given incident.

Patient Information

1. **Substances** - Any medications or substances the patient is confirmed to have been on or is suspected to have been on during the incident, including alcohol.
2. **Condition** - The reported condition of the patient at the time the SSS product was applied.
3. **Outcome** - Did the patient survive? If not, what was the ultimate cause of death?

Injury Information

1. Application Site - The location on the patient's body where the SSS product was applied.
2. Fractures - Any known bone fractures present at the time of product application.
3. Arterial Bleeding - Any known arterial bleeds present at the time of product application.

Product Information

1. Product Worked - From the applicator's perspective, did the product work as expected?
2. Issues - What issues or difficulties did the applicator experience when applying the product?
3. Improvements - What improvements did the applicator recommend to the product?

2023-02-05 - ETQ - TABLE SAW ACCIDENT

Incident Information

Date : 2023-02-05	Location : Woodbury Heights, NJ
MOI : Table saw, laceration	Pictures : No
Applied By : CIV	On Duty : N/A
Self-Applied : Yes	One-Handed : Yes
Reporting : Email, medical report	
Case # : 310164960 (Medical)	

Patient Information

Age : 27	Substances : None
Sex : Male	Condition : Conscious
Outcome : Patient survived	

Injury Information

Location : Left hand, partial amputation of ring finger
Application Site : Left upper arm
Fractures : None
Arterial Bleeding : None

Product Information

Product(s) Used : ETQ	Product Worked : Yes
Issues : None	
Improvements : None	

Reporting

Email : "Hey guys I wanted to reach out with a thank you. I cut my finger damn near off today but I had one of your tourniquets in my pocket and was able to employ it one handed. This cut down on [the] blood loss and everything that comes with [it]."

Medical Report : "27-year-old male to the ER with [a] wound to his left hand from a table saw[.] ... [He] has [a] tourniquet [an ETQ] on his upper arm. ... [N]o active bleeding at present[.]"

SSS Comments

Many digit injuries, even amputations, do not warrant the use of a TQ as direct pressure will suffice. However, a TQ can be useful, such as assisting this patient in reaching a higher level of care on his own accord when maintaining effective direct pressure would not have been feasible.

In this case, the TQ should have been applied just above the wrist instead of the upper arm to prevent unnecessary vascular occlusion to uninjured portions of the arm. Additionally, some MOI, table saws in particular, can leave hands / digits severely mangled with protruding / sharp bone that make it difficult to apply effective direct pressure.

2023-03-24 - ETQ - ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

Incident Information

Date : 2023-03-24
MOI : Attempted suicide, laceration
Applied By : LEO
Self-Applied : No
Reporting : Email, questionnaire, police report
Case # : 230000597-001 (Police)

Location : Orchard Lake, MI
Pictures : No
On Duty : Yes
One-Handed : N/A

Patient Information

Age : 40
Sex : Male
Outcome : Patient survived

Substances : Alcohol
Condition : Conscious but disoriented

Injury Information

Location : Left wrist
Application Site : Left arm, just below the shoulder
Fractures : None
Arterial Bleeding : Unknown

Product Information

Product(s) Used : ETQ
Issues : None
Improvements : None

Product Worked : Yes

Reporting

Email : "I bought a tourniquet from someone [name redacted] that had purchased several of them from your website. Several weeks ago, while on duty as a Police Officer, I was able to use the tourniquet. I was told if it wasn't for the tourniquet the man would have not survived."

Police Report : "Once inside the apartment, I observed [the patient] laying on the floor in a large pool of blood under his arm. [He] had a towel covering his laceration, but the towel was soaked through. I then took my tourniquet [an ETQ] and placed it on the upper part of [the patient's] arm in [an] attempt to stop the bleeding. Once the tourniquet was on, the bleeding stopped."

Applicator's Additional Comments

"I was very impressed with the [tourniquet,] so were other officers[.] [T]hey want me to order more for them[.]"

2023-06-25 - ETQ - GUNSHOT WOUND

Incident Information

Date : 2023-06-25
MOI : Gunshot wound
Applied By : CIV
Self-Applied : No
Reporting : Email, questionnaire, unable to identify responding agencies
Case # : N/A

Location : California
Pictures : No
On Duty : N/A
One-Handed : N/A

Patient Information

Age : 45
Sex : Male
Outcome : Patient survived

Substances : None
Condition : Conscious but disoriented

Injury Information

Location : Right thigh, entry wound near groin with exit wound 6 inches above the knee
Application Site : 3 inches above the exit wound, groin was also packed with quick clot
Fractures : None
Arterial Bleeding : None

Product Information

Product(s) Used : ETQ Wide
Issues : None
Improvements : None

Product Worked : Yes

Reporting

Email : "I was in a [concealed firearms training] course today and one of the students shot himself in the leg. Because I had my [ETQ Wide] in my pocket I was able to get it on him about 45 seconds faster than anyone else could grab theirs from their range bag. I have carried this on me since the day I got it and I will always have it in my pocket from now on. You guys have earned my business for life."

Applicator's Additional Comments

"It was during a [concealed firearms training] course and the [patient] shot himself while drawing from concealment. I had the [ETQ Wide] on him about a min before the instructors could get theirs from their range bags."

SSS Comments

Severity of gunshot wounds can vary greatly but what never changes is that if you need a TQ, you need it as quickly as possible. This incident highlights the benefits of TQs that are compact enough to be carried on your person everyday, at all times. Despite being at a firearms training course, there was only one person that had a TQ on their person. Unfortunately, this is fairly common but we hope that in the coming years we can help change this to be the exception and not the norm.

2023-06-25 - ETQ WIDE - CLIFF FALL

Incident Information

Date : 2023-06-26
MOI : Cliff fall, multisystem trauma
Applied By : EMS
Self-Applied : No
Reporting : Email, questionnaire, waiting for redacted medical report
Case # : N/A

Location : Bensalem, PA
Pictures : No
On Duty : Yes
One-Handed : N/A

Patient Information

Age : 68
Sex : Female
Outcome : Patient survived

Substances : None
Condition : Conscious but disoriented

Injury Information

Location : Right ankle and knee
Application Site : Right thigh, 4 inches below the waist
Fractures : Open fracture on right ankle and knee
Arterial Bleeding : Unknown

Product Information

Product(s) Used : ETQ Wide
Issues : None
Improvements : None

Product Worked : Yes

Reporting

Email : “[Y]our TQ are amazing. I work in EMS and carry the[m] everyday [to work] with me in my [pocket] and had a call today where a lady fell down a cliff and had a[n] open fracture on her right knee and [police department prior] to us getting on scene applied a CAT and her leg was still bleeding[.] [U]sed the [ETQ] and it stopped the bleeding and worked like it should.”

Applicator’s Additional Comments

“[T]he TQ worked the way it was designed, it was small enough that I was able to have it on me and use it [without] thinking about it and the application of it was straightforward. ... I can carry it every day on the truck where I don’t have to go searching through [our] own [first aid] bag to get a TQ.”

“[I applied] it above the [first] TQ that the Officer put on to control the bleeding that was still going and it was able to stop the bleeding and did not come loose or shift during the [e]xtraction out of the river bank. After talking to the Trauma Doctor at the hospital the patient did lose a lot of blood but with the appropriate care and application of the TQ the [patient was able] to make a full recovery and is now in [r]ehab.”

2023-07-03 - ETQ, ETQ WIDE - EXPLOSION, FIREWORKS

Incident Information

Date : 2023-07-03
MOI : Explosion, fireworks, shrapnel
Applied By : LEO+
Self-Applied : No
Reporting : Email, phone interview, investigation is open, cannot submit FOIA request yet
Case # : 2023-07030207

Location : Holland, MI
Pictures : Possibly, pending case closure
On Duty : Yes
One-Handed : N/A

Patient Information

Age : 30
Sex : Male
Outcome : Patient survived

Substances : None
Condition : Conscious but disoriented

Injury Information

Location : Just below left knee and below right knee
Application Site : Above left knee and just below right knee
Fractures : None
Arterial Bleeding : Posterior tibial, peroneal

Product Information

Product(s) Used : ETQ and ETQ Wide
Issues : None
Improvements : A dedicated training version or alternate colors.

Product Worked : Yes

Reporting

News Article :

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2023/07/04/1-dead-9-injured-after-fireworks-explosion/70381611007/>

Email : "My name is Deputy [redacted], I [am a paramedic deputy] for Ottawa County Sheriff's Office in West Michigan. I have direct messaged you guys on Instagram multiple times, raving about your products and my experiences with carrying them. As I've said before (on instagram) I've been looking forward to putting your products through some testing.

Instead, my first experience actually using your product was the day before July 4th. A resident of my county brought a “homemade firework” to a party of over 100 people. This “firework” was made out of a 3/4 inch [thick] galvanized steel pipe. Unfortunately this resulted in not only a death, but with 9 other horribly wounded. (This is a delayed email due to the investigation being open for the past week or so).

Most of my colleagues only carry the single tourniquet that we are issued. Thankfully, I carry a bag of them. I placed 4 tourniquets on July 3rd, and I broke a 5th (not yours). During this incident I had used 2 gen7 CAT tourniquets, one standard ETQ, and one wide ETQ. The CAT tourniquets warped under pressure, [didn't] hold the windlass unless reinforced with tape, and I even snapped a windlass on one. It took 2 tourniquets to stop this [patient's] femoral bleed. This was incredibly disappointing and honestly shocking. Yet, the ETQ and [ETQ Wide] did not warp, did not bend, held the windlass with ease, did not break, and most importantly it stopped the bleeding! In the moment it actually felt like it stopped the bleeding with less pressure, but that could have just been the excitement.

When I went to the hospital to gather statements and continue my investigation, the trauma surgeon (a friend of mine who served as a combat doc and trauma surgeon [overseas]) pulled me aside to tell me how I “undoubtedly [saved] these [patients'] lives”. Before I could walk away he asked me about your tourniquets. He had obviously never seen your products but was incredibly impressed by the quality and effectiveness.

I now plan to replace every CAT that I own with one of your products. I want to thank you on behalf of the patients who literally owe their lives to your products. Thank you for letting me share my story as well.”

SSS Comments

Due to the nature of the incident, an explosion, there is an ongoing criminal investigation so our FOIA requests have been denied at this time until the investigation is closed.

This sheriff's office does not have body cams so there is no footage available but possibly crime scene photos.

The paramedic deputy that emailed us about the incident is working to get us a redacted copy of his separate medical report as well, which should contain more detailed information on the care the patients received at the scene of the incident.

The deputy was not issued the ETQ or the ETQ Wide, but had purchased them on his own. The ETQ was carried on his ankle and the ETQ Wide was in a bag that was kept in his patrol vehicle along with several TQs from other manufacturers.

A follow up phone call was conducted with the deputy to ascertain a better understanding of the chronological order of TQ applications he was aware of, but information was still limited due to the ongoing investigation.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the order of events. Again, this is our interpretation and not to be confused as a direct quote or confirmation from the deputy or any other official source at this time.

Patient 1

Deputy applied the first CAT, but bleeding did not stop.

A firefighter applied a second CAT but it started to warp and the windlass would not lock in place.

Deputy removed the second, failed CAT and replaced it successfully with the ETQ from his ankle.

Patient 2

Deputy retrieves bag of additional TQs from vehicle.

Deputy applied a CAT that began to split where the webbing feeds through the windlass.

Deputy applied the ETQ Wide successfully.

Patient 3

Deputy applied a CAT successfully.

The deputy's CATs were confirmed genuine although it is not known if the firefighter's CAT was genuine or not.

2023-07-17 - ETQ - MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT

Incident Information

Date : 2023-07-17
MOI : Motorcycle accident, multisystem trauma
Applied By : CIV+
Self-Applied : No
Reporting : Email, questionnaire
Case # : N/A

Location : Fishers, IN
Pictures : Yes
On Duty : N/A
One-Handed : N/A

Patient Information

Age : 40
Sex : Female
Outcome : Patient survived until a higher level of care arrived on scene, final outcome unknown

Substances : None
Condition : Conscious but disoriented

Injury Information

Location : Lower leg and pelvis/femoral head
Application Site : Right upper thigh
Fractures : Pelvis, femur, tibia, fibula
Arterial Bleeding : Unknown

Product Information

Product(s) Used : ETQ
Issues : None
Improvements : None

Product Worked : Yes

Reporting

Email : "I drove up to a severe motorcycle crash yesterday and used [an ETQ]. Because it was in my pocket and the easiest to get it was the first one I used. I ended up using either 4 or 5 [TQs] and all of my [QuikClot] gauze and wound packing gauze from two different medical kits that I had on two people with severe lower body and head [injuries]. ... I'm just a regular citizen [that] was on my way home from working on a storm(lineman). I'm lucky to have bought your product and [used] it. The [ETQ] and sleeve are fantastic."

Applicator's Additional Comments

"2 patients. Both patients had compound fractures to lower legs. Female patient had massive damage to the pelvis/femoral head. Male patient [had] severe head injury."

“I'm happy that you've made a [TQ] that I can easily carry on my person everyday. It was effective when I needed it and you guys should be proud of the work you're doing.”

SSS Comments

This incident highlights the importance of redundancy. “Two is one, one is none.” Most people don't carry TQs on them or even in their cars, yet even when there is only one patient involved, the injuries may warrant multiple TQs. The applicator in this incident was much better prepared than most and still ended up having to use all of his available medical supplies.

2023-07-23 - ETQ - ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

Incident Information

Date : 2023-07-23
MOI : Attempted suicide, laceration
Applied By : LEO
Self-Applied : No
Reporting : Email, questionnaire, awaiting police report from Fresno County Sheriff's Office
Case # : 23-0008439 (police)

Location : Fresno, CA
Pictures : No
On Duty : Yes
One-Handed : N/A

Patient Information

Age : 32
Sex : Male
Outcome : Patient survived

Substances : None
Condition : Conscious but disoriented

Injury Information

Location : Left inner elbow
Application Site : Left upper arm
Fractures : None
Arterial Bleeding : Brachial, with visible arterial spray

Product Information

Product(s) Used : ETQ
Issues : None
Improvements : None

Product Worked : Yes

Reporting

Email : "Good afternoon, I used the ETQ on a subject that had an arterial bleed on his arm."

Applicator's Additional Comments

"Product worked as expected with no issues."

2023-08-06 - ETQ - VARICOSE VEIN BLEED

Incident Information

Date : 2023-08-06
MOI : Varicose vein, small puncture
Applied By : LEO
Self-Applied : No
Reporting : Email
Case # : This was an agency assist (security at venue) and there is no official case number or report

Location : Wentzville, MO
Pictures : Yes
On Duty : Yes
One-Handed : N/A

Patient Information

Age : 44
Sex : Male
Outcome : Patient survived

Substances : None
Condition : Alert and oriented

Injury Information

Location : Upper left ankle / lower leg
Application Site : Just below groin for first TQ (CAT), ETQ applied 3 inches distal to CAT
Fractures : None
Arterial Bleeding : None, but significant blood loss from varicose vein

Product Information

Product(s) Used : ETQ
Issues : "At first there was a small issue. I [noticed] the [hook and loop] wanting to fold like a hot dog bun sticking together making it difficult to strap it down, but I was able to work through the issue. I think if I carried the larger one it would not fold. But I carry the small one for my off-duty activities."
Improvements : None

Product Worked : Yes

Reporting

Email : "I was working security at an event when it was brought to my attention that a male subject needed medical aid. The male was a larger subject who was in the bathroom and was bleeding from a varicose vein. ... I had to use two tourniquets[,] one being my personal [ETQ]. I have attached a photo to show you the blood loss. He was transferred to a hospital and treated."

Applicator's Additional Comments

"The [patient] had a vein that was cauterized but over a few months it was a scab. The [patient] scrapped the scab while pulling his shorts up and [began] to bleed."

"The [patient] was attempting to stop the bleeding himself. He tried to use paper towels and I think there was even a bandana wrapped around his calf[.] I don't believe anything [else] was done prior to the two TQs."

"The other TQ used [was] a CAT[,], they are issued to us officers by our PD. ... The convenience of having a smaller TQ is simply amazing."

SSS Comments

It is not uncommon for patients with large legs, whether from excessive adipose tissue or muscle, to require more than one TQ, regardless of brand, style, or design. The brand of the first TQ applied is unknown but appears to be a CAT or SOFT-W from the photos, although it is difficult to tell. The ETQ was applied after and distal to the first TQ. At that point the bleeding was stopped.

Any bleed has the potential to be life-threatening under the right circumstances. While venous bleeds are typically less serious than arterial bleeds, they can still be serious, as evidenced by the photo for this incident.

2023-08-15 - ETQ - CAR ACCIDENT

Incident Information

Date : 2023-08-15
MOI : Car accident
Applied By : LEO
Self-Applied : No
Reporting : Email, questionnaire, awaiting police report
Case # : N/A

Location : Puerto Rico
Pictures : Yes
On Duty : Yes
One-Handed : N/A

Patient Information

Age : 70
Sex : Male
Outcome : Patient survived

Substances : Unknown
Condition : Alert and oriented

Injury Information

Location : Left thigh
Application Site : 4 inches above
Fractures : Unknown
Arterial Bleeding : Unknown

Product Information

Product(s) Used : ETQ
Issues : None
Improvements : None

Product Worked : Yes

Reporting

The reporter of this incident was from Puerto Rico and does not speak or write English well so the information provided in his email and questionnaire was very limited. The original email is reproduced below in its entirety with many grammatical, contextual, and clarification updates.

Email : “Good afternoon, I am Agent [redacted] of the District of Ceiba in Puerto Rico. I used my ETQ to save the life of Mr. [redacted]. He was saved thanks to the ETQ since he suffered a traumatic amputation.”

2023-08-15 - ETQ - MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT

Incident Information

Date : End of June, 2023, exact date unknown
Location : Michigan
MOI : Motorcycle accident, laceration
Pictures : No
Applied By : MIL
On Duty : N/A
Self-Applied : No
One-Handed : N/A
Reporting : Email
Case # : N/A

Patient Information

Age : Unknown
Substances : Blood thinners
Sex : Female
Condition : Alert and oriented
Outcome : Patient survived

Injury Information

Location : Left arm
Application Site : High on left arm
Fractures : Unknown
Arterial Bleeding : Unknown

Product Information

Product(s) Used : ETQ
Product Worked : Yes
Issues : None
Improvements : When using on older patients, the thin looser skin can easily get pulled through the buckle with the strap as it's cinched down. I had to take an extra second to hold the skin taught under that portion as I pulled the strap through.

Reporting

Email : "I am [a] prior military [servicemember] and contractor now working in executive protection. ... My family and I were on an eight day multi-site camping trip along the great lakes at the end of June this year. One day we were driving to another [campsite] along a two lane road in the national park when we rounded a bend and saw a few cars stopped on the roadside, a barely alive deer in the ditch and debris scattered all over the road. We slowly drove [past] to assess the situation and stopped once I realized a 2 passenger motorcycle had struck the deer at around 55mph (speed limit on that road). I could clearly see blood so I grabbed my EDC bag of goodies and approached the group of people surrounding the couple in the road."

“The male driver had some bad road rash and cuts but was upright, conscious, and alert. The female was on her back in obvious pain with multiple injuries, lacerations the length of her left arm and a woman had wrapped a beach towel around her badly mangled hand. I noticed a good bit of blood and the towel was soaked through but didn't want to remove it, especially since I asked her about medications and she replied "blood thinners", so I applied my ETQ high on her left arm and [QuikClot] gauze to the deep vertical laceration on her forearm. Got an umbrella from one of the onlookers to shade her from the sun without moving her and asked everyone there if they had any medical knowledge or equipment. 13 people, not one had even a bandaid. This is why I carry things. 20 minutes later an [EMT] officer arrived followed shortly by paramedics. I quickly pointed out the TQ and blood thinner meds and made my exit. ... Pretty sure they're both [OK].”

Applicator's Additional Comments

“From my experience ETQ does the job. It feels a bit less reliable at first when you've used a [CAT] for so long but it cinched tight, [the] windlass held and locked, and it stopped the flow. I promptly got a replacement when I got home.”

SSS Comments

Specific information, such as the patient's age, is limited in this report due to the applicator leaving once EMS arrived on scene but it highlights why the everyday carry of life-saving medical products needs to be ubiquitous. Numerous bystanders were present prior to the applicator's arrival and not a single one of them had any medical equipment to use or even provide. Many vehicles come with “first aid” kits but they are generally “quality of life” kits that provide minimal, if any at all, true life-saving benefits. Take the time to research and put together real vehicle first aid kits, especially prior to trips where you'll be beyond city limits and EMS response times can drastically increase.

2023-08-28 - ETQ - CAMPING, LACERATION

Incident Information

Date : 2023-08-28
MOI : Laceration
Applied By : LEO
Self-Applied : No
Reporting : Email, awaiting case number for police report
Case # : N/A

Location : Rhode Island
Pictures : No
On Duty : Yes
One-Handed : N/A

Patient Information

Age : Unknown
Sex : Unknown
Outcome : Patient survived

Substances : None
Condition : Unknown

Injury Information

Location : Wrist
Application Site : 4" proximal injury site
Fractures : None
Arterial Bleeding : Radial, ulnar

Product Information

Product(s) Used : ETQ
Issues : None
Improvements : None

Product Worked : Yes

Reporting

Email : "Responded to a call for a service with a [self-inflicted] wrist laceration with radial and ulnar artery involvement at a [campsite] in the woods. En route my department issued CAT tourniquet became dislodged, presumably hung up in brush and pulled from the carrier so it was not available. Fortunately I was carrying an ETQ stashed inside my plate carrier. Upon arrival another officer was attempting to control the bleeding with direct pressure which was unsuccessful. I determined a tourniquet was indicated and applied your ETQ tourniquet approximately 4" proximal from the injury site . Arterial occlusion was achieved successfully and the patient was transported to a higher echelon of care for artery repair. "

SSS Comments

This incident perfectly illustrates the importance of having backups and redundancy in your medical equipment, especially as a first responder. Sometimes products fail, sometimes you can't find them right when you need them, or they simply get lost altogether, such as in this scenario. Additionally, even with just a single patient, multiple TQs may be warranted and in the case of mass casualty situations, first responders can quickly find themselves lacking enough TQs for a given situation when they only have a single one on their belt.

2023-12-20 - ETQ WIDE - OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

Incident Information

Date : 2023-12-20
MOI : GSW
Applied By : LEO
Self-Applied : No
Reporting : Email
Case # : 23-18331

Location : Adams County, CO
Pictures : Possibly, upon case closer
On Duty : Yes
One-Handed : No

Patient Information

Age : 31
Sex : M
Outcome : Patient survived

Substances : None
Condition : Conscious

Injury Information

Location : Left foot, right arm
Application Site : Proximal left leg and right arm
Fractures : #3 and #4 L proximal phalange
Arterial Bleeding : None

Product Information

Product(s) Used : ETQ Wide
Issues : None

Product Worked : Yes

Improvements: dedicated training version - although very similar in design to the CAT, would be nice to have a dedicated training version to get application practice instead of first time use being a live one

Reporting

Email : "Other deputies and I were attempting to apprehend a wanted fugitive when we were met with gunfire and involved in an officer involved shooting. One of my good friends and partners, Deputy [redacted], was struck twice by the suspect in the exchange of gunfire (hit once in the right forearm and once in the left foot). After the threat was eliminated, Deputy [redacted] began announcing he was hit. I got him off the X, we moved behind cover, and I began to treat his injuries. He told me he was hit in his left foot so I removed my ETQ Wide which I have mounted on my holster for ease of access. I applied the ETQ Wide to his left thigh. As I was working on this, he stated he was also hit in his right arm. Once I completed the ETQ Wide application on his leg I then grabbed a CAT which I pocket-carry and applied it to his right bicep. After initial interventions were put in place he was loaded into a car and rushed to a local hospital for higher treatment."

SSS Comments

These officers showed true bravery under duress. Being able to stop a threat, while your fellow officer is injured, and then provide aid, is remarkable. This incident is a great example of how having access to multiple tourniquets can be very helpful in a scenario where a victim has sustained several injuries. Law Enforcement Officers are trained to operate in high stress environments, often being first responders to victims with life threatening injuries, or unfortunately, becoming victims themselves. Having access to medical equipment that can quickly stop bleeding and potentially save a life is why we do what we do here at SSS. We wish a speedy recovery to the injured officer and give a heartfelt thank-you to the officer that rendered aid. Great job.

2024-02-02 - ETQ WIDE - UPPER EXTREMITY LACERATION

Incident Information

Date : 2024-02-02
MOI : Unspecified, large laceration
Applied By : Bystander
Self-Applied : No
Reporting : Email
Case # : N/A

Location : Texas
Pictures : N/A
On Duty : N/A
One-Handed : N/A

Patient Information

Age : N/A
Sex : M
Outcome : Patient survived

Substances : Unknown
Condition : Conscious, lethargic

Injury Information

Location : Lower arm
Application Site : Proximal arm
Fracture : None
Arterial Bleeding : Yes

Product Information

Product(s) Used : ETQ Wide
Issues : None
Improvements: None

Product Worked : Yes

Reporting

Email : "I was driving around town in San Antonio running errands when I saw a man on the side of the road bleeding bad and a couple people around him. I could tell they were trying to help but it looked like they did not have much medical equipment. I carry an ETQ every day as well as an ETQ wide and a trauma kit and other items in my truck. I pulled over and could tell they needed help. The man had a large laceration on his lower arm that had caught an artery and he was pulsing out blood. It was all over his shirt, arms, and pants. I tried talking to the man but he was not doing and couldn't say much. I grabbed the ETQ wide I had in my truck, put on some gloves and put it on his arm above the laceration. Tightened it down tight then cranked the windlass. While I did this, the woman next to me called 911 and the EMTs got there a couple minutes later. They loaded him up and took him away, saying that we did a good job."

SSS Comments

This upstanding citizen was just running errands when he jumped into action to help render aid to a complete stranger. This incident shows the importance of having not just a first-aid kit, but a way to stop arterial bleeding. The team at SSS truly believes that having access to a tourniquet when you are least expecting, can absolutely save someone's life.