



Trauma Association of South Carolina  
Room 2416 Columbia Mills Building  
301 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina

## Position Statement on “Stop the Bleed” Campaign

### INTRODUCTION

Stop the Bleed is a national awareness campaign, through the American College of Surgeons and the Hartford Consensus, aimed at encouraging bystanders and members of the community to become “trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives”. This campaign was launched in 2015 by the White House. *No matter the injury, or circumstance, the first people on the scene will be bystanders.* By providing these citizens with knowledge and providing access to equipment, life threatening bleeding may be controlled, thus saving lives. The Stop the Bleed initiative has multiple layers including teaching life saving techniques through the Bleeding Control Course, increasing awareness of resources available to community members, and teaching how to use equipment (such as tourniquets, and gauze) in life threatening bleeding situations.

Serious bleeding may occur from many different injury mechanisms, and in many different locations. While the public may immediately think of intentional acts of violence such as shootings, stabbings and bombings, there are many other instances where Stop the Bleed principles may be applied. Examples of these instances include motor vehicle crashes, occupational injuries, natural disasters, and falls.

### SITUATION / ANALYSIS

Death from bleeding may occur in as little as five minutes (American College of Surgeons, 2016-2018).

Nationally, trauma is the leading cause of death of people for ages 1 to 44. In 2014, South Carolina ranked number 17 in the nation for the number of trauma deaths (SC Department of Health and Environmental Control). Behind neurologic injuries, massive hemorrhage is the second leading cause of death due to trauma (Kabaroff, 2013).

Communities with comprehensive CPR training, including the use and access of automated external defibrillators (AED) have improved survival rates for cardiac arrest victims (American Heart Association, 2013). In the same fashion, the difference between life and death for an injured person may be as basic as increasing public awareness regarding Stop the Bleed techniques, and increasing access to needed equipment.

### CONCLUSION

The Trauma Association of South Carolina (TASC) believes that the Stop the Bleed initiative is a valuable resource to help empower the citizens of South Carolina with education on how to save lives in the event of a life-threatening bleeding incident. By providing access to equipment and education on proper usage; such as tourniquets, gauze, gloves; bystanders will have the knowledge and appropriate tools to save lives.

TASC supports the following initiatives:

- Provide bleeding control kits to schools across South Carolina
- Offer bleeding control education to faculty of South Carolina schools
- Increase awareness of the Stop the Bleed initiative
- Expand public access to bleeding control kits throughout the community
- Grow the number of Stop the Bleed instructors
- Help facilitate and provide bleeding control education to community members

Through these initiatives, we feel survival rates related to traumatic serious bleeding will improve.

Approved by TASC February 27, 2018



Trauma Association of South Carolina  
Room 2416 Columbia Mills Building  
301 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina

## REFERENCES

American College of Surgeons (2016-2018). Bleedingcontrol.org. Retrieved February 6, 2018, from [www.bleedingcontrol.org](http://www.bleedingcontrol.org).

American Heart Association (2013). FACTS every second counts rural and community access to emergency devices. Retrieved February 7, 2018, from [https://www.heart.org/idc/groups/heart-public/@wcm/@adv/documents/downloadable/ucm\\_301646.pdf](https://www.heart.org/idc/groups/heart-public/@wcm/@adv/documents/downloadable/ucm_301646.pdf).

Kabaroff, A. (2013). Understanding how our methods have evolved and how far we need to go. Journal of Emergency Medical Services. Retrieved February 7, 2018 from <http://www.jems.com/articles/supplements/special-topics/putting-clamp-hemorrhage/stop-bleeding.html>.

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) - Division of Injury and Violence Prevention, 2015 South Carolina Injury Profile Report.