



# First Aid For Severe Bleeding

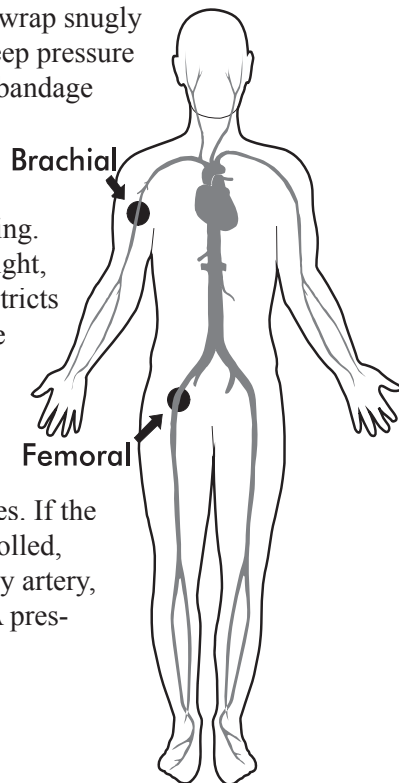
HS95-072D (9-06)

A 5-Minute Safety Training Aid

Worksite emergencies can happen quickly, and everyone should know what to do - everyone should know first aid. Note: You may want to

demonstrate the steps for controlling

bleeding on a volunteer. To care for a major open wound (bleeding freely or severely), you must act at once. Begin by applying direct pressure over the wound with a clean, sterile dressing to slow the flow of blood and promote clotting. If a sterile dressing is not available, use any clean cloth such as a towel, handkerchief, or shirt. Avoid using your bare hands. To reduce the risk of infection or disease transmission, put a barrier between you and the victim's blood, such as disposable gloves or a layer of plastic wrap. Next, if you do not suspect that the wound involves a broken bone, elevate the injured area above the level of the heart. Elevating the wound will help to slow the flow of blood. Remember to maintain direct pressure on the wound at all times, or it may begin to bleed again. If the victim is able to help, have him or her apply the pressure. Use a roll of gauze bandage to wrap snugly around the dressing to keep pressure on the wound. Wrap the bandage around the injured body part, using overlapping turns, covering the entire dressing. The bandage should be tight, but not so tight that it restricts all circulation beyond the bandage. If blood soaks through the bandage, put on more dressing and bandages. Do not remove blood soaked ones. If the bleeding cannot be controlled, apply pressure to a nearby artery, called a pressure point. A pres-



sure point is a spot on the body where you can squeeze the artery against the bone. This can slow the flow of blood to the wound. There are two major pressure points in the body. If the bleeding is from the leg, press with the heel of one hand on the femoral artery in the groin - where the leg bends at the hip. If the bleeding is from the arm, squeeze the brachial artery located on the inside of the upper arm. Any severe bleeding can lead to a life-threatening condition called shock. Shock is a condition in which the circulatory systems fails to deliver blood to all parts of the body. When shock occurs, the victim may become restless or irritable, experience rapid breathing or pulse rate, have pale, cool, or moist skin, or drift in and out of consciousness. To care for a victim of shock:

- have them lie down or rest comfortably;
- elevate the legs about twelve inches if you do not suspect a head, neck or back injury;
- maintain a normal body temperature by covering with a blanket, but do not overheat;
- do not give them anything to eat or drink, even though they are likely to be thirsty;
- call your local emergency number immediately – a victim of shock requires advanced medical care as soon as possible. Call for professional medical help quickly with any severe bleeding emergency. Always wash your hands immediately after completing care, disinfect any blood-contaminated surfaces, and dispose of blood-soaked bandages properly. Never apply a tourniquet unless you have been medically trained to do so. To review, the steps for controlling severe bleeding are:
  - apply direct pressure;
  - elevate the wound;
  - apply a pressure bandage;
  - use a pressure point; and
  - treat for shock.

Remember, practice safety, don't learn it by accident.

The Texas Department of Insurance,  
Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI/DWC)  
E-mail [resourcecenter@tdi.state.tx.us](mailto:resourcecenter@tdi.state.tx.us)  
or call 1-800-687-7080 for more information.

*Safety Violations Hotline*  
**1-800-452-9595**  
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