

# First Aid Tip on Cuts and Bleeding from the Shriners Medical Corps

By MITCHEL D. SHAIR  
EMT/SERGEANT

*Tips are intended for very minor incidents or emergencies when trained help has not yet arrived. There is no substitute for professional medical care and, if needed, Emergency Medical Services.*

WHEN treating another person Body Substance Isolation precautions like gloves, goggles, masks and protective clothing should always be considered to prevent the transmittal of disease. Source of the wound should also be considered (don't get cut yourself).

There are three basic types of bleeding, Capillary, Venous and Arterial.

Terms to know:

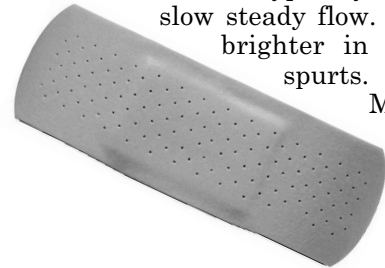
**Dressing** - The clean sterile material placed on a wound.

**Bandage** - The clean material used to hold the dressing in place.

Most minor wounds are capillary which is a mild oozing usually from a scrape like a skinned knee. They can easily be washed out with soap and water and possibly a topical antibiotic or solution like Hydrogen Peroxide applied then dress and bandage the wound.

Venous is typically dark in color and a slow steady flow. Arterial tends to be brighter in color and flows in spurts.

Minor cuts can be controlled like capillary, slightly more serious by use of direct pressure.



Place a clean sterile dressing over the cut and maintain pressure until the bleeding stops and then bandage in place.

More serious cuts that continue to bleed even with direct pressure add dressings on top of one another, never remove the dressing since it can remove clots that are starting to form. Elevate the limb if possible and ice packs could be applied to help. If bleeding still cannot be controlled Emergency Medical Services should be contacted.

**Note:** Tourniquets are a method of absolute last resort and should be used only by trained professionals. Once applied they cannot be undone or loosened other than by a Medical Doctor, they also create a high risk of blood clots that can travel in the blood stream with fatal consequences. If applied TK and time of application should be written on the victims forehead to clearly notify evaluating medical teams of the situation.

Hopefully none of you will ever need our services. Remember we would rather get to know you with a fraternal handshake and brotherly conversation, than kneeling at your side taking vitals.

We are constantly expanding our capability to provide quality emergency care, so if you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a Noble, or any existing Noble's out there who would like to join us at the Medical Corps, as a First Responder, EMT, Nurse or Physician's Assistant to stand ready for Medical Emergencies at Shrine events and Parades, please contact us.

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# Need A Ride???

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EMT/SERGEANT

MANY times when EMT's are called to a situation we will evaluate the patient and a decision needs to be made whether or not to transport. An unconscious person is an automatic transport under the rules of "Implied Consent," it's the same as with a minor without adult supervision. Similar for a person that has an altered mental status which can be from a medical issue, trauma to the head or under the influence of drugs or alcohol and cannot make decisions as they would when coherent.

There are certainly instances when a person with a known medical issue that they are used to handling or a minor injury, that do not require an ambulance ride to the hospital. There are many cases when a person can wait to contact and then see their Primary Care Physician or it's an issue they are well capable of handling on their own.

There are also many times that a person needs or we believe may need immediate attention by a Medical Doctor. As EMT's we perform a basic patient assessment, we are trained to handle serious illness and injury that also may be life threatening then transport to a hospital. We are not trained or equipped to diagnose or rule out injuries or medical issues that should be treated by an MD. In the hospital there is a wide array of equipment and specialists that need to be consulted to make sure the patient is ok or more interventions are required. EMT's on scene are not equipped, trained or have the time for these measures.

So the question is do you go by Ambulance or have someone drive you in to the hospital?

*continued on page 30*



STANDING AT the ready during one of the functions at the Shriners Auditorium is Dennis Pacheco, one of the Medical Corps 1st responders.

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# HELP WANTED:

The Aleppo Medical Corps  
looking for  
EMT's • First Responders  
Nurses • PA's  
to stand ready for Medical  
Emergencies at Shrine events  
and Parades.



PLEASE CONTACT:

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The Shriners Auditorium now has AEDs throughout the building.