



Policy 811

Subject

INDIVIDUAL FIRST AID KIT (IFAK)

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By Order of the Police Commissioner

POLICY

Preserving Life. The policy of the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) is to preserve life by rendering aid to individuals who are suffering from traumatic injury. To maximize the likelihood of victim survival, members of the BPD shall be trained in the use of an Individual First Aid Kit (IFAK) to help stop hemorrhaging and stabilize the victim until the arrival of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to administer advanced medical care.

DEFINITIONS

Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs) — A pouch containing advanced first aid lifesaving supplies such as Tourniquets, Pressure Dressings, Occlusive Dressings, Topical Hemostatic Agents, Nitrile Gloves, and Trauma Shears.

Medical Coordinator — Member of the Education and Training Sections are responsible for issuing IFAKs, replacing IFAK components, and First Aid Trauma Training.

Nasopharyngeal Airway — A type of airway adjunct that is designed to be inserted into the nasal passageway to secure an open airway.

Nitrile Gloves — A form of protection against blood borne pathogens and other dangerous substances. Nitrile Gloves offer greater puncture resistance, and are the preferred alternative to latex gloves, when latex allergies are a concern.

Occlusive Dressing (Chest Seals) — A high performance dressing designed to treat penetrating chest wounds. Occlusive Dressings provide superior adhesion to the wound area even when moisture, pleural fluids or blood is present.

Pressure Dressings (Compression Dressings) — A bandage containing a large amount of cotton or gauze attached to an elastic band. The Pressure Dressing is then tightly wrapped around a wounded limb or the trunk of the body to stop hemorrhaging.

Topical Hemostatic Agents — A powder or bandage soaked in powder that acts to arrest bleeding or hemorrhage by coagulating blood. Topical Hemostatic Agents should be used to control heavy bleeding in the abdomen. Topical Hemostatic Agents shall be used in conjunction with Pressure Dressings or Tourniquets to maximize effectiveness when applied to the limbs.

Tourniquet — Any limb constrictive device, whether improvised or commercially manufactured, used in an attempt to stop extremity bleeding.

Trauma Shears — A type of scissors used by EMTs and first responders to quickly and safely cut clothing from injured individuals.

GENERAL

1. All BPD members will receive First Aid Trauma Training on the proper use of items contained within the IFAK.
2. The IFAK shall be issued to members upon completing and successfully passing First Aid Trauma training.
3. The IFAK shall be readily accessible to all members who are issued one. “Readily accessible” includes wearing the IFAK as part of a member’s uniform of the day or storing the IFAK in the patrol car during each tour of duty.

REQUIRED ACTION

Members

4. Attend First Aid Trauma Training at the Education and Training Section (E&T).
5. Inspect the IFAK at the beginning of each tour of duty.
 - 5.1. If a member damages or has lost any items within the IFAK, members shall notify their supervisor immediately.
 - 5.2. Members shall complete an Administrative Report, Form 95, and respond to E&T to have missing contents replaced.
6. When an item in the IFAK is used, members shall document the usage in an Incident Report, Form 8 or Supplement Report, Form 7. Scan/email the Incident Report or Supplement Report to the Medical Coordinator at: IFAK@Baltimorepolice.org. Respond to E&T to have the contents replaced. Members will not receive replacement items until the incident report or supplement report is received, documenting that the equipment was used.
7. Members may purchase an IFAK for on-duty use provided:
 - 7.1. The pouch is a “drop leg” design;
 - 7.2. The contents of the IFAK are inspected by the Medical Coordinator, E&T; and
 - 7.3. The member has successfully completed First Aid Trauma Training provided by E&T.
8. The IFAK may be worn at any time a member is wearing a Class “B” or Class “C” uniform.
9. Members shall bring their issued IFAK to in-service training for inspection by the medical training unit.

Supervisor

10. Investigate reports of missing or incomplete IFAKs. Make a BlueTeam entry, when appropriate.
11. Ensure members obtain replacement IFAK supplies from E&T as needed.

Medical Coordinator Education and Training Section (E&T)

12. Conduct First Aid Trauma Training and certify members in the use of the contents of the IFAK.
13. Issue an IFAK to members successfully completing First Aid Trauma Training.
14. Maintain First Aid Trauma Training records.
15. Manage the inventory of IFAKs to issue to all BPD personnel upon completion of First Aid Trauma Training.
16. Manage the replacement/replenishment of IFAK supplies.

RESCISSION

Remove and destroy/recycle Policy 811, *Individual First Aid Kit (IFAK)* dated 27 March 2018.

COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

This policy is effective on the date listed herein. Each employee is responsible for complying with the contents of this policy.