

# IMPROVISED LIMB TOURNIQUET



**CAUTION:** An improvised tourniquet should be used only as a last resort when a CoTCCC-recommended tourniquet is NOT available.



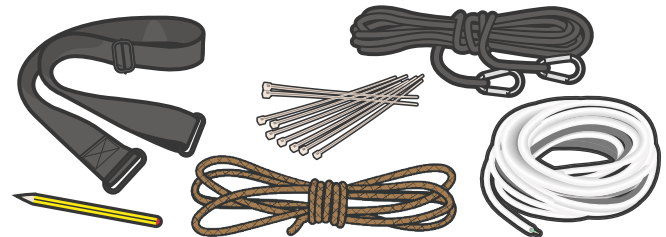
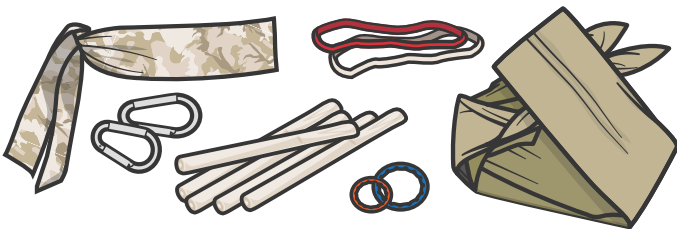
**CONSIDER** body substance isolation.  
**NOTE:** If a Combat Lifesaver is available, direct them to assist.

**01 EXPOSE** the injury and assess the bleeding source.  
**NOTE:** Clothing may need to be cut away to properly expose the injury.

**02 APPLY** direct pressure while gathering materials for an improvised tourniquet.



**03** Rapidly **GATHER** and **PREPARE** appropriate improvised tourniquet materials.



Strap, cloth, or flexible material greater than 40 inches in length and folded to at least 2 inches in width (cravat, bandana, strip of trouser leg or towel, necktie).

Rigid object for windlass device 1/4-1 inch in diameter and 4-6 inches in length (wooden dowel/stick, broom/mop handle, weapons cleaning rod, freshly cut tree limb).

Optional locking ring (keyring, ring seal of commercial liquid bottle, heavy rubber band, or hairband).



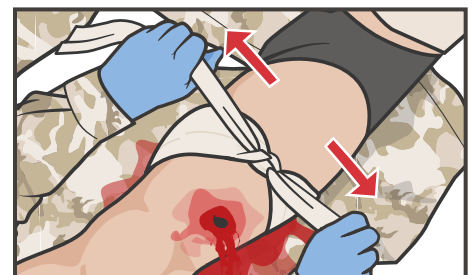
Inappropriate materials include electric cords, belts, wire, or material less than 2 inches wide; single pens/pencils, ground clutter wood, polished metal objects, boot/shoelaces, zip ties.



**04 IDENTIFY** application site 2-3" above the bleeding site. If bleeding is at the joint, application site is 2-3" above the joint.



**05 ROUTE** the strap under the limb at the application site. (If using an optional locking ring, then route the strap through the ring.)

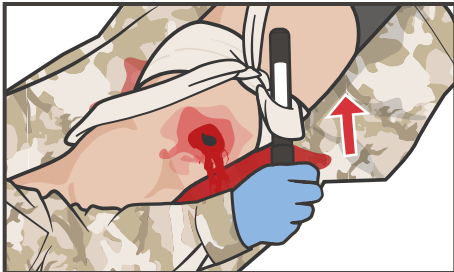


**06 TIE** the first half of a square knot tightly and evenly (if using optional locking ring, ensure the ring device is approximately 2" away from the knot).

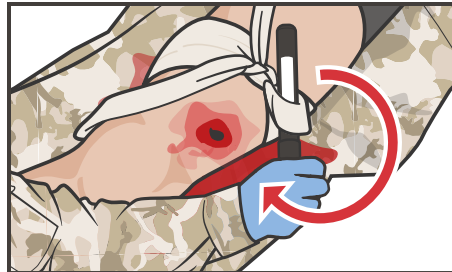
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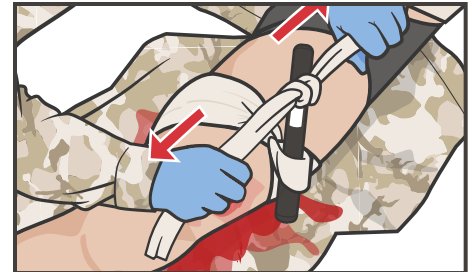
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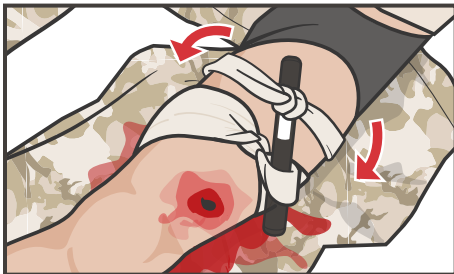
**07** **HOLD** the windlass device over the center of the half knot and complete the square-knot tightening down over the windlass device.



**08** **TWIST** the windlass device in one direction until the bleeding has stopped and no distal pulse is palpable.



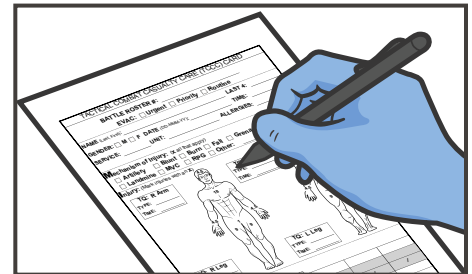
**09** While holding the windlass device in place, tightly tie the tails of the original square knot to the windlass device to secure it in place. (If using the optional ring, then insert the windlass device into the ring.)



**10** **SECURE** the tourniquet in place by using the second cravat, tape, or strip of cloth (if not using the optional ring).



**11** **DOCUMENT** the time of tourniquet application on the casualty's forehead.



**12** **DOCUMENT** all findings and treatments on a DD Form 1380 TCCC Casualty Card and attach it to the casualty.