

Severe Bleeding: Check Response Readiness

Todd Jerome Jenkins | v1.0 | Reviewed October 7, 2026 | Discussion + field checks

Why this matters

Severe bleeding needs immediate help. Before work, check that the people, supplies and emergency access needed for a prompt response are available at the actual work location.

Objective: Locate usable response supplies and confirm who calls, helps and guides responders.

Key hazards or failure points

Delayed emergency call; inaccessible supplies; unfamiliar devices; missing trained coverage; blood contact; an unsafe scene; practice that injures someone.

Practical controls

- For life-threatening bleeding, call 911 or the local emergency number immediately. If safe, use available blood-contact protection and apply firm direct pressure with a dressing or clean cloth. Follow dispatcher guidance and current training.
- Trained responders use tourniquets for life-threatening limb bleeding and wound packing when appropriate under their training. This is not technique training. Do not remove an embedded object; apply pressure around it, not onto it.
- Maintain appropriate first-aid coverage, accessible supplies and blood-contact protection. Plan who calls, brings the kit and meets emergency services without delaying care.

Verify It in the Field

Reach the actual kit from today's work location. The responsible person checks contents, packaging and dates against the approved inventory and device instructions. Keep emergency supplies ready; use separate training props.

Confirm designated responders and backups are available this shift and trained for their assigned care and stocked devices. Check suitable protective supplies and the exposure-reporting route.

Have a worker state the exact location, call method and responder entrance. Complete a normal communication check, never a test call to 911. Record readiness gaps and correction owners, not anyone's medical history.

Stop and reassess

Treat suspected life-threatening bleeding as an emergency; do not wait for supervisor permission or complete paperwork first. Stay out of uncontrolled danger and summon equipped rescue. Before work, hold affected exposure when required response capability is missing until the gap is resolved.

Ask the crew

1. Can we reach the kit from this work area?
2. Who calls, provides trained help and meets responders?
3. What response gap must we fix before work?

Readiness and immediate reminder; not first-aid or bleeding-control certification.

Sources: American Red Cross bleeding guidance; OSHA 1926.50; applicable 1910.1030.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/severe-bleeding-response-readiness