Wound Packing Gauze

Field Manual & Standard Operating Procedure

North American Rescue, 3 in x 5 yd, Item 30-0054
NSN 6510-01-695-5824



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This field manual supplements, and does not replace, the manufacturer's instructions for use and hands-on training from a qualified instructor. Follow your agency protocol or medical direction. Product names are trademarks of their respective owners.

SECTION 1

Mission Brief & Intended Use

1.1 Mission Objective

Pack deep wounds that a tourniquet cannot reach, and hold pressure on the source of bleeding until the casualty reaches advanced care.

1.2 Scope of Application

Wound packing to control hemorrhage with direct pressure; backing gauze for hemostatic agents; use with a compression bandage; minor wound bandaging.

North American Rescue Wound Packing Gauze is a sterile, Z-folded gauze, 3 inches by 5 yards, indicated for use as a wound packing gauze to control hemorrhage with direct pressure.

1.3 OPERATIONAL CONTEXTS

Patrol and tactical kits

Small enough for a belt IFAK at 3 by 2 by 1 inches.

EMS and medics

Linear-feed packing gauze for trauma bags. NSN 6510-01-695-5824.

Prepared citizens

A packing gauze for the home, vehicle or range kit.

SECTION 2

Component Familiarization

Know every component by name and by feel before you need it.

2.1 THE GAUZE

Z-fold configuration

Apply as a complete unit or as a continuous linear feed.

3 inch by 5 yard, 1-ply

Soft, white, sterile and pliable.

X-ray detectable line

Embedded in the gauze.

2.2 PACKAGING

Vacuum sealed

3 by 2 by 1 inches, 1.2 ounces.

SECTION 3

Standard Operating Procedure: Deployment

Scenario: At a farm, a worker takes a deep wound in the groin crease from equipment, where a tourniquet cannot be placed. A coworker packs the wound with the Z-fold gauze, holds pressure and wraps it with a pressure bandage while EMS responds.

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3.1 Prepare

1. **Expose the wound.** Cut or move clothing to see the wound and find where the bleeding is coming from.
2. **Open the package.** Open the vacuum sealed package and keep the gauze as clean as possible.
3. **Find the source.** Put a finger into the wound to locate the source of bleeding where you can safely do so.

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3.2 Pack and press

4. **Pack in a line.** Feed the Z-folded gauze into the wound in a continuous line, pressing it down onto the source of bleeding, and keep packing until the wound is filled.
5. **Hold pressure.** Hold firm, direct pressure over the packed wound with both hands until bleeding is controlled.
6. **Secure it.** Cover the packed wound with a pressure bandage such as an ETD to keep pressure on it.

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3.3 Reassess and hand off

7. **Reassess.** Check for bleeding through the dressing. If it continues, add pressure, and use a tourniquet for limb bleeding that will not stop.
8. **Hand off.** Tell EMS or receiving medical personnel that the wound is packed. The X-ray detectable line helps them account for the gauze.

EXPOSE	OPEN	FIND	PACK	PRESS	SECURE

SECTION 4 · READ CAREFULLY

Critical Warnings, Limits & Safety

Medical warning: Packing and pressure control many wounds, but life-threatening bleeding from an arm or leg calls for a tourniquet first.

4.1 APPLICATION HAZARDS

Pressure is the point

Packed gauze works only with firm, direct pressure. Do not lift it to check the wound.

Know when to escalate

If limb bleeding will not stop with packing and pressure, apply a tourniquet.

Account for packed gauze

Tell receiving medical personnel which wounds are packed.

4.2 SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Training first

Practice wound packing hands-on before you need it. Reading this manual is not training.

Get care

Every significant wound needs evaluation by medical personnel.

4.3 EQUIPMENT INTEGRITY

Intact packaging

Do not use gauze whose package is torn or opened. Replace it.

Single use

Replace the gauze after any use.

SECTION 5

Readiness, Inspection & Sustainment

5.1 Staging for Deployment

- Keep the gauze sealed in its vacuum package until use.
- Stage it beside your pressure dressing so packing and wrapping go together.
- Carry more than one for deep wounds that take more gauze.
- Know how the package opens so you can do it by feel.

5.2 Periodic Inspection

- [ ] **Scheduled inspection**

  Check the vacuum seal. A package that has lost its vacuum or is torn should be replaced.

- [ ] **Expiration date**

  Check any date printed on the package and replace before it passes.

- [ ] **Storage**

  Keep it dry and out of prolonged heat and direct sunlight where possible.

5.3 SERVICE LIFE & REPLACEMENT

> Replace after any use, if the package is damaged, or by the date printed on it. Follow North American Rescue's instructions.

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