



Stop the Bleed Training Comes to South Williamsport

May 14, 2018

The South Williamsport Area School District received several hemorrhage trauma kits as a part of the nationwide Stop the Bleed initiative from UPMC Susquehanna and the Pennsylvania College of Technology.

Teachers and administrative staff participated in the training on Thursday, May 10 conducted by members of the hospital's Emergency Medical Services team and Cpr. Carl Finnerty, of South Williamsport Area Police Department.

The purpose of the initiative is to help improve survival from life-threatening bleeding. In the past year, around 1,500 individuals in Lycoming County have gone through this same training, according to Tony Bixby, Director of Pre-Hospital Operations.

“The training demonstrates the actions anyone can take to save a life before EMS arrive,” said Mark Trueman, Manager of Pre-Hospital Operations.

Inside each trauma kit there are three tourniquets, three compression bandages, three rolls of hemostatic gauze, small scissors, gloves and a mask.

Everyone was given a practice tourniquet, a device that stops arterial blood flow, which they put on their arm and leg.

The goal with the device is to make it tight enough on a person's limb for the bleeding to stop, said Bixby. In a real life situation, one should not remove a tourniquet until medical personnel arrive.

Tourniquets are not useful for junctional bleeding from a wound to the neck, shoulder or groin. The staff learned to care for those injuries by packing them with gauze then applying direct pressure.

Bixby, Finnerty and Trueman guided the trainees by using a practice dummy where they put their



Becky Swinehart, left, and Christine Miller, right, practice packing a wound with gauze during the Stop the Bleed training on Thursday.

lesson into action. They stuffed the fake wounds as tightly as they could with gauze from the training kits.

Dr. Mark Stamm, District Superintendent, said he is appreciative of the organizations providing the trauma kits and the training for his staff. Finnerty was instrumental in getting the district involved in the program.

Stamm plans to have the training available to more staff next school year.

“Any type of life saving training that we can provide to staff is important,” he said. “Being prepared for the worst is necessary and we are eager to learn as much as we can.”