



Dear Region Chiefs, Regional COT Chairs, and Trauma Leaders

A new course called B-Con (bleeding control) has been developed in response to the call from the Hartford Consensus for direct training of lay personnel in external hemorrhage control, including the use of tourniquets, and the efforts by the U.S. Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services to increase collaboration between law enforcement, the fire service, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in responding to active shooter/IED/mass casualty events.

The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) responded quickly to the challenge by extracting and modifying the information contained in their Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) course and adapting it for the lay public.

This two-and-a-half-hour course teaches participants the basic life-saving medical interventions, including bleeding control with a tourniquet, bleeding control with gauze packs or topical hemostatic agents, and opening an airway to allow a casualty to breathe. The course is designed for NON-tactical law enforcement officers, firefighters, security personnel, teachers, and other civilians who require this basic training. The course includes a PowerPoint presentation and instructor notes, instructor's guide, and skill station guide. A separate, additional PowerPoint module has also been developed specifically for law enforcement participants.

The American College of Surgeons (ACS), a long-standing partner in the PHTLS program, has fully endorsed the B-Con concepts and training materials. As a leader within your local medical community, we ask for your help in ensuring that this course is provided to those who need this training and identifying resources that can help establish public bleeding control packs in a manner similar to current automated external defibrillator (AED) placements.

What you can do to help:

- Ensure that your contacts with regional/state trauma programs are aware of the B-Con initiative.
- Contact local EMS agencies in your area to inform them of the program.
- Work with PHTLS instructors in your area to encourage them to promote the B-Con project.
- Make yourself available to instructors as an expert in hemorrhage and shock.
- Assist in finding resources to install bleeding control packs in public venues.
- Report back to the ACS any challenges or successes you have had in promulgating the program.

Attached you will find:

- A copy of the B-Con instructor materials.
- A list of the state PHTLS coordinator(s) in your state.

Please don't wait! Help your community develop its capacity to respond when needed. Contact Nels D. Sanddal, PhD, REMT (nsanddal@facs.org) with any questions you may have. Thank you for your support.

Norman McSwain, MD FACS

Professor of Surgery, Tulane University
Medical Director, Prehospital Trauma Life Support

Leonard J. Weireter Jr. MD FACS

Vice-Chair
ACS Committee on Trauma



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
Inspiring Quality:
Highest Standards, Better Outcomes

