

National Park Service Tactical EMS (TEMS) Training Module Overview

National Park Service (NPS) EMS providers may encounter tactical/technical situations where they need to provide optimal medical care by deviating from their standard NPS EMS Field Manual. This training module and NPS Tactical EMS (TEMS) Manual are based on the Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) handbook and the existing NPS RM-51 / NPS EMS Field Manual. The TCCC guidelines are the recognized standard of care in tactical situations across many organizations. Utilizing TCCC based protocols allows common medical practice between multiple agencies (DOD, NPS, Border Patrol, DHS, FBI, Secret Service, etc.) in TEMS environments, so that there is a common focus and treatment strategy to patient care.

With local NPS Park authorization and Local EMS Medical Advisor (LEMA) agreement, this NPS TEMS Module can be used by any park service provider at the EMR level or above after approved NPS TEMS training. Ongoing training, twice a year (approximately every 6 months) is required to maintain proficiency in the NPS TEMS program. It is recognized that there are several skill levels of EMS providers: EMR (Emergency Medical Responder), EMT, Parkmedic (AEMT, NREMT-I 85/99), and Paramedic. There are protocols that apply only to advanced life support (ALS) providers (Parkmedic and Paramedic) and some protocols authorize care at the basic life support (BLS) level (EMR and EMT). Protocol familiarity is essential to ensure each skill level practices at their authorized level and within their NPS TEMS scope of practice. It is also recognized that these guidelines allow for standing orders in all tactical settings for all levels of TEMS provider based on scope of practice at that level.

Each park utilizing these protocols, will designate a TEMS coordinator that will ensure training and ongoing education/documentation specific to the NPS TEMS manual. This collateral duty MAY be a separate assigned duty from the Park or district EMS coordinator. If so, this individual should be training and documenting per the NPS TEMS Protocols and Procedures. Once a tactical mission/situation is complete, standard EMS documentation is required. During the operation, patient care cards, triage tags, or other notes may be used.

Starting at the EMR level, all BLS and ALS NPS TEMS providers can, with the NPS TEMS training and refreshers, perform these functions in a tactical setting:

- 1) Recognize stages of patient care and treatment priorities:
 - a. Care Under Fire / Direct Threat Care
 - b. Tactical Field Care / Indirect Threat Care
 - c. Tactical Evacuation
- 2) Recognize their individual role in the medical plan of any mission. i.e. responsible for self-aid or buddy aid if situation arises. Take responsibility

- as TEMS medical provider for any casualties encountered (team member, combatant, civilian bystander, etc.).
- a. Team “medic” skill level may vary (ALS or BLS) based on mission objective and concerns.
 - b. Team “medic” should have knowledge of EMS evacuation plan and closest facilities and treatment options.
- 3) Responsible for maintaining own Individual First Aid Kit (IFAK).
- a. IFAK (see approved/recommended list)
- 4) Manage bleeding by direct pressure, bandaging, and/or tourniquets if needed. **Recognize that granular/powdered hemostatic agents are no longer recommended and can be harmful and should be removed from all tactical kits.** Other hemostatic gauzes (non-granular) may or may not be more effective than using regular gauze in an aggressive wound packing method to control bleeding (in wounds not able to be accessed by tourniquets). After a wound has been packed, then a pressure bandage should be applied.
- 5) Manage chest trauma with needle decompression (NDC) in suspected cases of tension pneumothorax (with possible repeat decompressions needed), as well as occlusive Chest Seals for open chest wounds.

BLS providers can use the above expanded skills in defined TEMS situations.

ALS providers are authorized to use all TEMS protocols in concert with the NPS EMS Field Manual, as well as their other skills authorized as appropriate in a tactical setting.

NPS TEMS Training Module Course Setup

A recognized NPS TEMS Instructor can take this module and teach it to additional NPS personnel at the EMR level and above. The first 'Train the Trainer Course' for the NPS TEMS program was held March 2011 in Tulsa, OK at the NPS EMS Workshop. Ideally TEMS Instructors will be ALS providers, but it is recognized that in some locations a BLS provider with demonstrated proficiency and LEMA approval, may provide this training. Refreshers for TEMS should occur twice a year (at approximately 6 month increments) to demonstrate continued proficiency in skills and protocol adherence.

In order to hold a NPS TEMS course and certify, WASO must be contacted and have the course approved.

Recommended time required for *initial* NPS TEMS training module: 4 hours

- 1 hour NPS TEMS Powerpoint Lecture (obtained online from Inside NPS) for introduction to TCCC guidelines and NPS TEMS program.
- 2 ½ hours of skills stations –see setup and requirements below.
- 15-30 min for written online test and passed at the appropriate NPS TEMS Provider Level (BLS, ALS, TEMS Instructor). This can be accessed online from the Inside NPS website. Certifications and tracking through EMS Charts are being developed.

Example NPS TEMS training schedule:

0800-0900: Sign in, Introductions, NPS TEMS Powerpoint lecture.

0900-1130: 45 min Rotations of 3 stations listed below (for a small group or single instructor, you could proceed linearly through the stations in the same period).

1130-Noon: Written online test for course completion and verification/authorization.

Recommended time required for NPS TEMS *recertification*: 1-2 hours

- Based on TEMS participants in the twice a year (approximately 6 month) recertification cycle, the formal didactic portion of the NPS TEMS module may be eliminated and TEMS participants can just proceed through stations with skill sheet verification on online test.
- Every 2 years the initial/full training must be completed. This is to continue to be current with updates with the program.

Station 1: Bleeding Control - Tourniquet/Wound Packing/Pressure Dressing

Goals: Application of C-A-T tourniquet by participant with two (2) separate applications: one on self and one on buddy (1 sliding on, 1 unthread and then apply).

Aggressive wound packing demonstration and apply compression bandage. Discuss wound care procedure. If non-granular hemostatic products are used in IFAK as optional component, then these should be trained on as well (i.e. Combat Gauze or other agent). **Ensure granular agents are pulled from all TEMS kits.** If time permits, demonstrate/discuss granular hemostatic complications (heat, eye exposure, embolization, etc).

Station 1: Tourniquet/Bandaging supplies

1. C-A-T Tourniquet trainers (Blue) – The TEMS participant should not use personal tourniquet, as repeated use will degrade Velcro and may limit effectiveness in an actual setting.
2. Bandaging supplies – Ace vs. Israeli Bandage vs. other – whatever is in the rangers personal IFAK. Aggressive wound packing with rolled up towels or other simulated wound(s)/mannequins.
3. NPS Tactical EMS Skill Sheet – Station 1: Bleeding Control (C-A-T/Wound Packing/Pressure Bandage)

Each participant will demonstrate understanding and skill performance based on Station Skill Sheet, included with this NPS TEMS Module.

Station 2: Chest Trauma - Needle Decompression/Chest Seal

Goals: Each participant must verbalize understanding of procedure and demonstrate at least one decompression on tissue (pork ribs) or plastic model. Discuss/Demonstrate application of Chest Seal products for open chest wounds. Discuss protocol indications, specifically address when it is and is not appropriate to perform needle decompression using mock scenarios/discussions.

Station 2: Needle Decompression/Chest Seal supplies

1. Chest Seal (or other product included in TEMS participant specific IFAK) for hands on demonstration of application on mannequin or TEMS participant.
2. Box Large Nitrile Gloves (50 pair) – or appropriate sizes/quantity
3. 1-2" tape (cloth, duct, or other)
4. Balloons (1-2 for each participant)
5. 10, 12, or 14 ga training catheters (3-4 for entire station)
6. Sharps Container
7. Pork ribs (or other needle decompression trainer)
8. Paper towel or other opaque substance to put over ribs
9. NPS Tactical EMS Skill Sheet – Station 2: Chest Trauma (Needle Decompression/Chest Seal)

Each participant will demonstrate understanding and skill performance based on Station Skill Sheet, included with this NPS TEMS Module.

Station 3: IFAK and NPS TEMS Protocols

Goals: Review NPS TEMS Protocols and Procedures (as appropriate to skill level EMR, EMT, ALS). Discuss Triage Tags and Triage in tactical settings, fill in personal information. Review IFAK contents and ensure readiness (i.e. tourniquet out of wrapper, etc.). Discuss further cases utilizing the TEMS protocols.

Station 3: IFAK and TEMS Protocols supplies

1. Copy of current NPS TEMS Protocols and Procedures
2. Discuss Triage Tags and Triage, fill in personal information.
3. Personal IFAK

Each participant will demonstrate understanding and skill performance based on Station Skill Sheet, included with this NPS TEMS Module.

NPS TEMS Online Testing

Access online test through Inside NPS website

BLS NPS TEMS Test – 1st 15 questions

ALS NPS TEMS Test – additional 10 questions (25 total)

NPS TEMS Instructor Test – Additional 5 (30 total)

Passing will be greater than 80% correct.

NPS TEMS CME

4 hours of CME will be provided for NREMT/EMS recertification for successful completion of the NPS TEMS course.

NPS TEMS Refresher

Each NPS TEMS provider should have a refresher twice a year (approximately every 6 months), supervised by each parks local TEMS coordinator. This can be a much smaller training session with basic TEMS skills verified and IFAK supplies verified. A complete course must be attended every 2 years to maintain NPS TEMS training.

Refresher skill stations should be the same as initial training with same skill check off sheets used. Online test must also be taken for appropriate skill level (ALS, BLS,

Instructor) and passed. It is anticipated that this refresher may be able to be accomplished in 1-2 hours, but additional training with incorporating additional scenarios and moulaged stations may enhance learning.

NPS TEMS Instructor refresher

NPS TEMS instructors must teach at least 2 classes per year and complete an instructor update every 2 years. This may be in person at a NPS EMS workshop or may be available online at inside NPS. Other requirements and/or instructor refresher intervals may be added by LEMA and/or WASO as this NPS TEMS program matures.

Supplies

Supplies can be ordered from already established suppliers for each park or from individual companies, or some may be available from WASO.

Questions can be direct to:
Dean Ross – WASO
Dean_Ross@nps.gov

TCCC references

<http://www.naemt.org/education/PHTLS/TCCC.aspx>

<http://www.health.mil/Education And Training/TCCC.aspx>

NPS Tactical EMS Protocols and Procedures – Appendix T to EMS Field Manual