



Advisory 21-08 Medical Equipment Warning: Gen 4 SOF-TT-W Tourniquet 1.5”

To: All Fire, Law Enforcement, and EMS Agencies and Providers
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The Generation 4 Tactical Medical Solutions SOF-TT-W Tourniquet features several design improvements including a retention clip intended to allow providers to take ‘hands off’ the tourniquet while making adjustments to the windlass and tri-ring. This provides an advantage during one-handed self-application to upper extremities. *However*, inexperienced, distracted, anxious, or otherwise impeded rescuers may use the retention clip to secure the device while failing to engage the tri-ring. While the retention clip may hold the windlass temporarily, **the tri-ring must be engaged to properly secure the tourniquet**. Securing the windlass with only the retention clip causes the tourniquet to be dangerously prone to dislodgment. Using only the retention clip is further complicated by its ability to slide laterally on a short length of webbing, making it prone to movement.

Recent experience with the tourniquet was able to reproduce windlass dislodgement with minimal effort when not engaging the tri-ring. The images to the right demonstrate the secured and unsecured positions of the tourniquet.



The Gen 4 SOF-TT-W **must** be secured with the windlass locked in place by **both** the retention clip and tri-ring, with the tri-ring locked into the recessed groove of the windlass tip. The tri-ring may need to be moved laterally (it shares webbing with retention clip) to lock in the recessed groove of the windlass, adding a further step which may be difficult in one-handed application.

The image to the left shows the incorrectly applied tourniquet applied to a victim of an edged weapon attack in NY. The windlass is perilously close to dislodgment.

Familiarity and practice with the proper application of this device is critical for any rescuer that may have one issued to their person for self-rescue or use this device for bleeding control of others. With any questions, do not hesitate to contact this office.

(Image credits: Penn Tactical Solutions)

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