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TRAINING BULLETIN

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Counterfeit CAT Tourniquets

The Kern County Sheriff's Office has been notified of an alarming trend where counterfeit CAT tourniquets are being sold by online retailers. We have already located one counterfeit tourniquet being carried by a deputy. The Training Division has tested the counterfeit units and believes they will fail if subjected to the pressures of an actual field application.

To ensure your tourniquet is genuine, make sure it has the proprietary stamp on the band and the CAT logo on the etching or embossing beneath the pressure plate. See the attached memorandum from the FBI. If you locate a counterfeit tourniquet, please bring it to the Regional Training Center. We have a limited supply strictly to replace counterfeit units.

If you wish to purchase a tourniquet, make sure it is from a reputable retailer such as North American Rescue or Chinook Medical Supply.

OFFICER SAFETY BULLETIN

National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center



COUNTERFEIT TOURNIQUET MEDICAL DEVICES

SAFETY HAZARD TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRST RESPONDERS

Law enforcement has identified a trend regarding the sale of counterfeited Combat Application Tourniquets medical devices. A counterfeit tourniquet is one that bears the trademark of CAT Resources but is produced by another party and is usually not made to the specifications of the original equipment manufacturer. Several public safety agencies have reported failure of the counterfeit tourniquet devices in emergency situations.

ISSUE AND COUNTERFEIT PARTS:

The Combat Application Tourniquet is constructed with a strap that is placed above the wound on the injured appendage, affixed with a Velcro strap, it is tightened into place with a small tension rod (windlass). The tightening of the tension rod applies pressure to restrict blood flow to the affected area. The counterfeit models of the tourniquets are compromised by a poorly constructed tension rod made of plastic or a substandard composite that causes the rod to bend or break, rendering the tourniquet ineffective and potentially deadly as it will not stop the loss of blood.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF:

Only conduct business with the original manufacturer or authorized dealer and use caution when purchasing these medical devices through e-commerce sources. Beware of “too good to be true” prices and use caution when purchasing Combat Application Tourniquets that are shipped from other countries. **Authentic Combat Application Tourniquets are only produced in the United States.**

CHECKING YOUR GEAR:

On pages two and three of this bulletin are photos of genuine and counterfeit tourniquets showing some indicators to look for when checking your gear or purchasing new North American Rescue Combat Application Tourniquets. Check your gear to ensure safety in an emergency medical situation.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT YOU HAVE PURCHASED COUNTERFEITS:

Consult an original equipment manufacturer representative for advice on identifying and replacing the counterfeit medical device. If you believe you have been the victim of a crime, contact your local Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) field office to report the crime or submit an online complaint to the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center at www.iprcenter.gov.



