**SUBJECT:** Amputation

**PURPOSE:** To clearly establish the Department’s position on the clinical care and treatment of patients suffering from an amputation.

**SCOPE:** This Operating Guideline shall be applicable to all personnel; paid and volunteer, operating as an agent of Shamong EMS.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** All Department Officers will ensure overall compliance with this operating guideline. The primary responsibility of the emergency care and treatment of medical and trauma patients falls under Emergency Medical Technicians, paid and volunteer, operating as an agent of Shamong EMS

**PROCEDURE:**

1. **Assessment**
	1. Complete a full primary and secondary assessment, including a complete set of manual vital signs.
	2. Assess stump of amputated limb for anatomical location of injury
	3. Assess for major hemorrhage
	4. Assess for shock
2. **Treatment**
	1. Provide and maintain appropriate airway management.
	2. Administer and maintain appropriate dose of oxygen based on patient’s condition.
	3. Control bleeding.
		1. See Bleeding Control Protocol.
	4. Splint affected limb.
	5. If amputated part(s) are available to be transported with the patient:
		1. Irrigate the part(s) thoroughly with NSS solution.
		2. Wrap the part(s) in a sterile towel or gauze that is moistened with NSS solution.
		3. Place the dressed part(s) in a plastic bag. Label the bag with the patient’s name and the contents within
	6. Continue to monitor vital signs.
3. **Documentation**
	1. When and where did the incident take place?
	2. Include number of people involved.
	3. Location and position of patient upon arrival.
		1. Be as specify as possible, try and paint the picture for someone who wasn’t there.
	4. Ascertain about drugs or alcohol.
		1. Keep in mind both drugs or alcohol can hinder or alter your assessment due to damping or masking symptoms, altering vitals or making the patient combative, making it difficult to differentiate between and note as such
	5. Be sure to thoroughly document all associated injuries.
		1. Note the location of the weapon upon your arrival if still located on scene.
	6. Any and all treatment regarding the part amputated, including how it was transported
	7. All treatment rendered to the affected limb, including how bleeding was controlled (ie., direct pressure, tourniquet) and manual vital signs obtained
4. **General considerations**
	1. Do not use iodine based products to cleanse or dress the amputated part(s).
	2. Do not use any antiseptic solutions to cleanse or dress the amputated part(s).
	3. Do not freeze the amputated part(s) by placing in direct contact with ice or dry ice.
	4. Do not float the amputated part(s) in any solution.

**Enforcement**

Failed compliance with the policy and procedures outlined in this document may result in the employee’s entry to the department’s progressive counseling and discipline process.