

"I had to use two bags of Celox," he said. "But it stopped the bleeding in a short period of time, at least until the paramedics got there."

The new kits also contain a tourniquet, a device used to control circulation to an appendage for a period of time, and it can be self-applied by officers themselves or can be used on someone else. The tourniquet has not been used yet by GPD, as it is only used for very serious bleeding.

Another item new to the GPD's new trauma kits is the Ascherman chest seal, which also has yet to be used by officers. The chest seal is a one-way flutter valve that is applied when there is a puncture wound to the chest, where there is not just a bleeding issue but also a breathing issue.

Armagost said the kits are important because the police are the first to arrive on the scene when a dangerous crime has occurred, and before paramedics can enter the scene must be secure and stabilized.

"Just having those things available to us, it gives us peace of mind knowing we can take care of a situation where we couldn't before without the trauma kits," Armagost said.

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office is looking into putting in place a similar set of kits in its patrol cars, but no official steps have been taken, Stout said.

Stout said he hopes the trauma kits will save more lives.

"From the time the event happens to when the EMT gets there, it could be six to eight minutes, which is an eternity when you're losing blood," he said. "I always tell my guys, 'You have the rest of this person's life to get this thing done, so do it, do it fast and do it well.' "

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