Santa Fe Search and Rescue
Guidelines for Mission First Aid Kits

Purpose

The Mission First Aid Kits (MFAK) are outfitted for use in rendering assistance to injured subjects found in the field. Each team member is required to carry their own Personal First Aid Kit (PFAK) on a mission. The MFAKs supplement the PFAKs with additional materials to enable the delivery of more effective first aid for a subject. They are designed to cover the more severe subject injuries to be encountered by search teams in the field, while PFAKs are designed for less serious injuries in subjects or search team members.

Deployment

Each search team should carry one MFAK per team. When assembling at the shed prior to setting out for Incident Base, one MFAK should be carried for every three ground-pounders. Always round up to the next whole number. For example, if five team members arrive at the shed for a mission, then two MFAKs should be brought.

Contents of a MFAK

- 2 - ABD pads
- 3 - 4x4 sterile gauze dressings
- 1 - 4" SAM-type splint
- 1 – tourniquet
- 1 – triangular bandage
- 1 – roll of gauze
- 1 – package of Quick Clot hemostatic gauze

Execution in the field

Team members are expected to have been trained on the usage of all of the above materials through the periodic first aid training sessions conducted throughout the year by the Santa Fe Search and Rescue Medical Team. In addition, other first aid training courses are available in the community.

On a search, the MFAK is generally carried by the search team's Subject Advocate, in a location where it can be accessed quickly and easily. Field Team Leaders have had additional first aid training and should be consulted before application when possible. Always report to Incident Base the preliminary medical assessment of the subject before conducting first aid (unless delaying treatment would jeopardize the subject, for example in the case of massive hemorrhage) and follow instructions of the Incident Commander accordingly.

Reminders

The MFAKs are a supplement to each person's Personal First Aid Kit, and are not to be taken in lieu of the PFAK. Injuries encountered by a team member during a hike or mission should be first resolved through the use of supplies in the team member's own Personal FAK. Only more serious injuries should invoke the use of supplies in the MFAK.

DO NOT place used materials back in the MFAK. This could introduce contamination that may render all of the supplies in the kit unusable.

At the end of the mission, the team is responsible for insuring the return the MFAK to the shed and if any supplies have been used, immediately notifying the Santa Fe Search and Rescue First Aid Oversight Committee by phone or text of such an occurrence so that the kit can be restocked.

Personal First Aid Kit Recommended Supplies

For each team member, a Personal First Aid Kit should be carried in their pack. The Medical Team recommends the following supplies to be included in that kit:

- Band-Aid wound coverings
- Blister dressings
- Tape – cloth or silk
- 4 x 4 sterile gauze dressing pads
- Ace bandage or Coban (Vet wrap) type bandage
- Scissors
- Several safety pins
- 2 pairs of nitrile gloves
- Some form of eye covering
- Face mask (optional)
- Plastic bag for disposal of contaminated material
- Over the Counter medications for personal use only
- Prescription medications for personal use only

Additional material is recommended for each Personal First Aid Kit, as long as the member is trained in their application:

- Tourniquet
- SAM-type splint or similar
- Triangular bandages
- Israeli dressing or similar
- CPR mask (only if certified in CPR at medical provider level)

- Tweezers
- ABD dressings and/or additional sterile gauze dressings
- Gauze wrap
- Tegaderm occlusive dressing or similar
- Hand sanitizer
- Paper and writing tool for documentation
- Additional items according to personal preference or for a particular environment or mission

It is highly recommended that team members carry their PFAK on trainings and personal hikes as well as missions. Please note that if if a significant amount of personal supplies are expended to care for a subject, in excess of $10 worth, the team will issue reimbursement.