

On July 5th 2019, Deborah Dopkin contacted the Beach Patrol to inquire if the first aid training for the Patrol included the national protocols for “Stop The Bleed”.

After talking with her I realized where her passion came from. She is from Baltimore and has a summer residence on Ocean City. However, while visiting New Jersey she was run over by a transit bus severing both of her legs. If it had not been for a Police officer that had the training and equipment she would have died in minutes. Although she lost both legs she is alive and wants to give as many visitors to Ocean City the same opportunity to be helped as she was.

Following our conversation Deborah set up a conference call with some of the top doctors and leaders in the Maryland Trauma network. There were representatives on the call from Shock trauma, Johns Hopkins, State medical directors and others. Following this call we formulated a plan with the approval of Director Theobald.

Our next step was to train our leadership in the basics of Stop The Bleed and also train a cadre of Instructors. With the help of the Ocean City Fire Department and Staff from Peninsula Regional Medical Center we completed our Instructor training on February 29th.

Now our next step was to secure the resources to train and equip our staff for the 2020 season.

This is where “Hogs and Heroes” stepped in. I received an E-mail from Steve Hannon, President of the local chapter introducing himself and the purpose of “Hogs and Heroes” and asking if there anything they could do to help us with our mission. I explained that we were planning to provide this new training in “Stop The Bleed” but had not acquired the supplies and equipment to implement the program.

He took the lead and got permission to purchase and donate all of the Kits that we would be deploying.

Stop the bleed training and certification was instituted in our Surf Rescue Academy for all new Surf Rescue Technicians and during our annual re-certification of all returning personnel.

Because of the partnership with all of these agencies and the generous donation of the Stop the Bleed Kits anyone on any of our 10 miles of beach are only moments away from someone who is trained and equipped to provide lifesaving “Stop The Bleed” procedures.