

WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL PROTOCOL

VIOLENT/HAZARDOUS SCENE POLICY

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Purpose: To provide a process to ensure safety of EMS personnel when faced with known or potentially violent or hazardous situations.

Note: This policy applies to any situation which may expose EMS personnel to known or potentially violent (e.g. shooting, stabbing, assault, other violent crimes) or other known or potentially hazardous (e.g. hazardous materials) situations.

The medical component of the response to a violent or hazardous incident will be structured under the Incident Command System structure.

- I. Upon receipt of notification of a known or potentially dangerous situation, the dispatcher will determine:
 - A. Nature & location of incident
 - B. Violent situations
 1. If assailant is present.
 2. If police are present.
 - C. Hazardous materials situations
 1. Nature of material
 2. If material is contaminated.
 3. If FD/HazMat team is present.
- II. The above information should be communicated to responding crews.
- III. In any situation in which the scene is not secured, EMS personnel ARE NOT TO ENTER THE SCENE until it has been secured by the appropriate agency:
 - A. Law enforcement for violent situations
 - B. Fire department or HazMat team for hazardous materials situations
- IV. Generally, when responding to an unsecured scene, EMS personnel will stage an appropriate distance away from the scene to protect themselves from danger.
- V. Simultaneous dispatch of the appropriate law enforcement or fire/HazMat service will be requested.
 - A. That agency (agencies) will be informed of the location at which EMS personnel will be staging until the scene is secured.
- VI. Once on the scene, if a situation degenerates and poses IMMEDIATE LIFE OR LIMB THREAT to EMS personnel,
 - A. Attempt to exit the scene.
 - B. Notify the dispatcher of the assistance needed.
 - C. Provide any additional information available - e.g. number of assailants, weapons present/involved, any additional information
- VII. Upon receipt of an emergency request for police or fire assistance from an EMS provider, EMS dispatch should,
 - A. Immediately request assistance from the appropriate agencies, stating "EMS needs immediate (police/fire) assistance at (location)".
 - B. Provide responding police or fire agency with any additional information which is available - e.g. number of assailants, weapons involved/present.
- VIII. Special Considerations
 - A. Those patients who have been contaminated in a hazardous materials incident should be transported to a hospital with decontamination facilities.

