

JORDAN VALLEY EMS AUTHORITY POLICY

POLICY #:202.2.1.5

SUBJECT: SCENE SAFETY AND STAGING

CAAS STANDARD: 202.2.1

SCOPE: ALL EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for safe scene operations

POLICY:

If a potentially violent and/or dangerous situation is encountered and there is no police assistance immediately available and/or forthcoming, the first priority is for the safety of the EMS personnel. Decisions regarding treatment of the potential patient must be made with safety of responding EMS personnel in mind. Responding EMS personnel should not place themselves at unnecessary risk. All available information should be carefully analyzed to determine if dispatch information, coupled with the exterior observations indicate a potentially dangerous situation or otherwise unsafe incident.

PROCEDURE:

STAGING FOR UNSECURED SCENES

If the determination is made by the responding personnel using either information from the dispatcher or from initial observations at the scene that this is a dangerous situation, the responding unit should park one block down and one block over from the incident location (or a reasonable distance) unless another staging location has been selected by the dispatcher. If this location is still unsafe, the responding unit should find and move to a more secure area. If the unit does move the 911 center should be notified of the change.

The responding EMS unit will make the decision whether the incident location is safe enough for them to enter the scene. They are not required to proceed if directed by the general public, police or any other person unless they feel comfortable that the scene is safe and secure.

They should remain in a safe location until the police arrive, the incident is terminated in some way or they determine that the conditions are safe for their entry to the incident location.

The EMS crew must consider that just because police have arrived on scene, the scene is not necessarily secured. EMS crews should wait for confirmation from dispatch or the 911 center that the police have made the scene safe.

EMS personnel are not in the business of supplying police services. EMS personnel should not place themselves in combative or otherwise personally hazardous situations while attempting to deliver medical services. Calls such as assaults, shootings, stabbings, suicide attempts or psychological problems are recognized as scenes that could be unsafe.

FIRE SCENES

When an EMS unit is dispatched as a standby unit for fire incidents they will do the following:

1. Report to the Fire Incident Command Officer or Staging Officer.
2. Ensure that EMS personnel, equipment and vehicle are in a safe location.
3. Establish a triage location for potential firefighter or citizen care.
4. Personnel are not to leave the location until they have been released by fire incident command.

ADDITIONAL SCENE SAFETY PROCEDURES

1. Always survey the scene upon approach
2. Position the emergency vehicle in optimum location to help protect the scene from oncoming traffic
3. Always use emergency warning lights when an emergency vehicle is in the roadway or adjacent to a roadway
4. When on road way scene avoid standing between vehicles.

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5. All employees operating at an incident on or adjacent a roadway will wear an Authority supplied high visibility vest. These vests will also be worn at fire scenes, mass casualty scenes or when requested by an incident commander on scene or the on duty paramedic.
6. When entering a patient's home, always assess the scene for available exits
7. When knocking at a door, do not stand directly in front of the door or windows
8. Always monitor radios for further communications from dispatch

POLICY HISTORY:

Implemented February 1, 2015

Reviewed