Violent/Chemical/Hazardous Scene

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 material, chemical, biological) situations.

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

I. Procedure
   A. Upon notification of a known or potentially violent situation, the EMS personnel will determine through dispatch, the nature and location of incident and:
      1. Violent Situations
         a. Is assailant/weapon present?
         b. Assure law enforcement notification?
         c. Is scene secure?
      2. Hazardous materials situation
         a. Is scene secure?
         b. Nature and identification of material?
         c. Assure FD/Hazmat Team notification?

NOTE: The above information should be communicated to responding crews.

II. If the scene is not secured:
   A. EMS personnel will stage an appropriate distance away from the scene to protect themselves from danger.
   B. In hazardous material situations stage upwind, uphill and upstream.
   C. In violent situations EMS personnel will NOT enter a potentially unsecure scene until coordinated by law enforcement command and MUST maintain law enforcement protection.

III. Once on the scene, if the situation changes posing an immediate life or limb threat to EMS personnel:
   A. Attempt to safely exit scene.
      1. Exit scene with patient, if possible.
      2. Medical treatment protocols may be limited or deferred to assure safety of EMS personnel and patient.
   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.

Special Considerations: For those patients, who have been contaminated in a hazardous material incident, refer to **Hazard Contaminated Patient-Special Operations Protocol**.