

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL	
Section: G. Emergency Medical Services	Effective Date: June 10, 2013
Topic: 8. Occupational Health & Safety	Replaces: March 1, 2010
Subject: 5.8 Crew Safety	
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PURPOSE

To provide guidelines regarding the notification of police for assistance, and actions to take to provide for the safety of ambulance personnel.

APPLICATION

Paramedics, EMAs

PROCEDURE

1) While Responding to Scene

- CACC **will not direct** responding personnel to delay a response by waiting for Police unless the Police Services has identified an immediate threat and advised for the Paramedics to stage until Police have secured the scene. In this circumstance, the CACC ACO's communications will include: "Police have advised that you do not enter the scene until secured, you are requested to standby/stage at (location x)."
- If CACC is aware of a hazard or unusual situation, the CACC ACO will instruct the responding Paramedics to switch to **an alternative radio frequency** to receive further information. The Paramedics shall remain on the specified alternative radio frequency for the duration of the response until it is determined that the scene has become safe to enter.
- Once on the alternate radio frequency, the CACC ACO shall disclose all call information that would assist the responding Paramedics in determining that a threat exists. This information may be derived from the initial call-taking procedure or through additional Police communication.
- The responding Paramedics will use the information provided by the CACC ACO to assist in making a determination of scene safety. If danger exists, or there is uncertainty regarding personal and/or patient safety, request assistance from allied emergency services personnel/agencies (if not already done so) and maintain communication with ambulance dispatch as described above.

2) On arrival at scene

- Perform an assessment of the environment. Park the ambulance in a safe place, *as close to the point of patient contact as personal safety dictates* according to the information already provided. Identify obvious and

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potential hazards to the patient(s) and crew. Where appropriate, identify routes of entry and exit, e.g. for multiple patient incidents; for potential violence or confrontation.

- Where a response has been determined to be unsafe, Paramedics and the CACC ACO shall identify a standby location, **out of the line of sight from the call location.** The standby location shall be such that Paramedics not drive by the scene. The Paramedics will request CACC ACO to notify the Police Communications Centre and the Field Superintendant as to the location of the crew standby location and request contact from police once the scene has been secured. The ACO shall obtain an accurate quantitative ETA of Police Services and they shall relay that information to the responding Paramedics.
- Paramedics will coordinate their efforts with those of the police officers to ensure the safe provision of patient care.

3) Field Superintendent Notification

- If it has been determined that there is a known or suspected threat to responder safety CACC shall also contact the Field Superintendent/Duty Officer.
 - It is expected that the **Field Superintendent** will be monitoring the radio communication while on duty and may be in a position to monitor the update on **alternate radio frequency.**
 - Where the Field Superintendent/Duty Officer is unable to monitor the alternate frequency the **CACC** ACO will make arrangements to patch the Field Superintendent/Duty Officer through to the appropriate radio frequency via phone patch. This will also allow the FS/DO to monitor and enter into conversation with the responding crew to better help determine the risk.
 - Where feasible the Field Superintendent shall respond to the location of the call to assist the Paramedics.
- It must be noted that the decision by a Paramedic to standby and wait for Police carries with it a duty to ensure that there THEIR actions are supported by all available information.
 - Paramedics must complete an Incident Report detailing the rationale for their delay in an emergency response as per the Ambulance Documentation Standards.

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4) While On Scene

- **For ALL scene responses** Paramedics will contact CACC by portable radio once patient contact has been made and a safe and secure scene has been determined and shall give an initial CTAS upon patient contact. The CACC ACO shall establish contact with the Paramedics in the event that the Paramedics fail to contact the CACC within five (5) minutes of arrival at scene.
- In the event that the CACC ACO cannot establish communication with the Paramedics, the CACC ACO shall initiate a waist page, then a telephone call to the call-back number. If unsuccessful, CACC will immediately notify the Police Communications Centre to respond police resources and will contact the Field Superintendent/Duty Officer.
- Police assistance should be requested by code at any scene where verbalizing the request otherwise might endanger crew members. There are only two approved codes for police assistance:
- 10-200 code is used when routine police assistance is required for attendance at routine scenes such as:
 - Report of violence (i.e. stabbing, shooting, fighting)
 - Unusual or suspicious nature of the call
 - Report of animal bite or attack
 - Sudden death
 - Physical assault or abuse of any aged individual(s)
 - Reports of disaster
 - Public safety hazards (i.e. roads, downed wires)
 - Need to gain entry to a house, apartment, etc.
 - Whenever the crew has a need for police assistance
- 10-2000 code or the emergency button on FleetNet radios, where available, is used when urgent police assistance is required immediately, i.e. violent patient(s), crew members being assaulted, etc.
- **Paramedics will utilize the emergency alarm button as defined by Fleetnet local operating procedures “real activation of emergency alarm button”, to identify an immediate threat to safety. Police Communications will be immediately notified. The ETA of the police if not on scene should be established. Paramedics will be given an accurate ETA of the Police. (ETA of 10-2000 is ...). The Field Superintendent/Duty Officer will be immediately notified.**
- CACC shall notify the Duty Officer/Field Superintendent of a 10-2000 broadcast and/or emergency button activation to initiate communications and response if they are in the immediate area and available to assist.

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REFERENCE

Emergency Health Services Branch, 2007, *Basic Life Support Patient Care Standards, Personal and Patient Safety and Protection Standard*, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Queens Printer for Ontario

Emergency Health Services Branch, 2007, *Basic Life Support Patient Care Standards, Police Notification Standard*, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Queens Printer for Ontario

Sudbury CACC, 2009, Local Operating Practice 11.13, *Allied Agency Response – Hazard at Scene*