

POLICY:	CRIME SCENE RESPONSE – 300.15		
APPROVAL:	VICE PRESIDENT OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES; MANAGER OF EMS;		
EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/1/2016	CURRENT REVIEW/REVISION DATE: 8/16	SUPERSEDES: N/A	ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/16
DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC		EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	

I. Purpose:

To identify pre-hospital providers' role at a crime scene response.

II. Policy:

It is recognized that the primary duty of any pre-hospital provider at the crime scene is to render medical assistance to the victim(s). The police are in charge of any crime scene and have an interest in preserving any physical evidence, which may assist in the prosecution of the criminal case. Pre-hospital providers should adhere to the advice and direction of police on the scene in all matters relevant to evidence collection unless doing so directly compromises patient care.

III. Procedure:

- A.** Assess the scene to determine if conditions permit safe performance of professional medical duties.
 1. In all cases where a crime, suicide or attempted suicide, accidental death or suspicious fatality has occurred and police are not on the scene, request their services.
 2. Treatment and transport should not be delayed pending police arrival unless the safety of the pre-hospital provider would be placed in jeopardy or the victim is obviously dead on arrival (DOA) (see item C).
- B.** Initiate patient assessment and treatment per protocol. If access to the patient is prohibited, immediately notify Medical Control. Document the police officer's name and badge number on the Patient Care Report.
 1. Contamination of the crime scene is to be avoided. If necessity requires the alteration of the scene for the purpose of aiding the victim/patient, the police must be informed. Avoid unnecessary contact with physical objects at the scene.
 2. Anything carried onto the scene (e.g. dressing, wrapping or packages), should be removed by the medical crew when they evacuate the scene. Do not remove anything from the scene other than those items.
 3. If it is necessary to cut through the clothing of the victim/patient, avoid cutting through tears, bullet holes, or other damaged or stained areas of clothing.
 4. Do not wash or clean the victim/patient's hands or areas which have sustained gunshot wounds.

