

TITLE: REPORTING OF SUSPECTED CRIMES AND CRIME SCENE RESPONSIBILITIES**POLICY NUMBER: PP013****POLICY STATEMENT:**

The First Responder, EMT-B, EMT-I, EMT-P, or PREHOSPITAL RN is required to report certain crimes when they become aware of these crimes or reasonably suspect that one of these crimes has occurred. In addition, the First Responder, EMT-B, EMT-I, EMT-P, or PREHOSPITAL RN must endeavor to provide optimum patient care while protecting evidence present at a crime scene.

GOAL/PURPOSE:

To establish procedures to follow at the scene of a suspected crime to insure proper patient care while preserving the scene.

POLICY/PROCEDURE:

- A. In cases of suspected child abuse/neglect or elder abuse or neglect the EMT may be required to report suspected crimes to certain agencies. The EMT is required to report to the appropriate agency in the following cases:
 1. **Suspected child abuse or neglect** – The EMT must report the suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) at **1-800-252-2873** and local law enforcement.
 2. **Suspected elderly abuse or neglect** – The EMT must report suspected elder abuse or neglect to the Elder Abuse Hotline at **1-800-252-8966 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM M-F or 1-800-279-0400 after hours and holidays**. EMT's should also contact local law enforcement.


- B. It is the duty of EMS personnel to notify the local law enforcement agency when it is reasonable suspected that the patient receiving treatment by EMS personnel:
 1. Has any injury resulting from the discharge of a firearm; or
 2. Has any injury sustained in the commission of or as a victim of a criminal offense.

- C. Upon arrival at the suspected crime scene, note the following.
 1. Immediately notify the police or call your dispatcher to do so.
 2. If the victim is obviously dead, then he or she should remain undisturbed. Even the position of the body can provide valuable clues.
 3. Do not touch, move, or relocate any item at the scene unless absolutely necessary to provide treatment to an injured victim. You should mark the location of any item that must be moved so the police can determine its original position. (Also refer to Policy and Procedure, "Interaction of Law Enforcement/Evidence").

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4. Do not allow onlookers or other unauthorized personnel on the premises of the crime.
5. Observe and note anything unusual, especially if the evidence may not be present when the police arrive. This may include smoke and odors.
6. Give immediate care to the patient. The fact that the patient is a probable crime victim should not delay prompt treatment. Remember, your role is to provide emergency care, not law enforcement or detective work.
7. Keep detailed records of the incident including your observations of the victim and the scene of the crime. In many felony cases, EMS personnel are called to testify since they were first on the scene, and lack of records about the case can be professionally embarrassing.
8. Once the police arrive you should leave or at least not hinder their work, however, you should give them any information you believe would be useful.

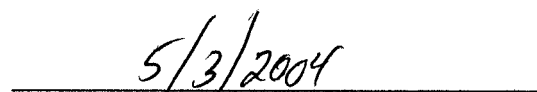
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