

To: All System Members

From: Kris Newcomb

Date: September 5, 2025

Subject: Reminder on Scene Safety Protocols

System Members,

I want to take a moment to remind everyone of the importance of following our established protocols designed to protect your safety on every call. The incident yesterday in Champaign underscores why these procedures exist and why strict adherence is essential.

Per system policy, EMS must **stage until law enforcement advises the scene is secure** on all psychiatric/mental health calls, suicidal subject calls, and related incidents. These measures are in place to safeguard our fire and EMS personnel while ensuring the most effective and safe response possible.

To our Dispatch Centers:

- If you are already conducting radio safety checks, thank you, please continue your strong work in keeping providers safe.
- If you are not yet conducting safety checks, begin performing them at least **every 10 minutes** until the responding unit has cleared the scene.

To our Responders:

- Please remember that EMS providers are to **stage until cleared by law enforcement**—this is a system policy, not a suggestion.

Thank you for your continued vigilance and commitment to first responder safety.

Respectfully,
Kris