



IAEMSC

International Association of Emergency Medical Services Chiefs

Position Statement 2009-001

Recommended EMS Agency Operational Security Measures:

With the heightened threat for terrorist incidents, EMS members and organizations need to adopt greater operational security and situational awareness measures. . Consistent with our assessment of these threats, the IAEMSC has adopted the following position with respect to EMS organizations sharing threat information with their members and the protection of the physical assets that identify EMS members and the vehicles required to deliver EMS services.

The IAEMSC recommends that organizations seriously consider implementing the following measures to support and promote operational security:

EMT's and Paramedics:

- Members should be provided with a security briefing regarding present or emerging threats to their safety or the integrity of the EMS mission. The briefings can take many forms such as meetings, information sheets or supervisory briefings conducted at the commencement of a tour of duty. This provides a common operating picture of the present environment.
- EMS organizations should provide members the opportunity to develop greater senses of operational security and situational awareness. While the threats EMS faces are not new, they continually change, requiring greater acuity and understanding. There exist numerous training opportunities and resources to further this goal. Many programs are offered at no cost to the agency through the US Department of Homeland Security. IAEMSC members are encouraged to review the references in the “members only” section of the website for additional information or to contact the IAEMSC for additional information & assistance with identifying and securing the proper resources/programs to satisfy agency requirements.

Vehicles:

- Accountability for all vehicles—marked and unmarked—to include tracking vehicles that are in-service, off service – reserve status, off-service and repair status, and those being salvaged.
- Unattended EMS vehicles should NOT be left running or the keys left in the ignition, unless equipped with a disabling or “kill” switch.



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- Monitoring of vehicle access, to include:
 - Ensuring that off service vehicles at EMS stations are secured in such a manner that significantly increases the difficulty of unauthorized access and use. Routine and random vehicle audits are encouraged.
 - Conducting routine and random audits of vehicle and station key access logs. Inventories of keys should be conducted to account for all keys. Taking requisite security corrective measures if keys should be discovered to be unaccounted for.
 - Ensuring that EMS vehicles that are off premises for service are accounted for, especially when not in direct possession of the EMS organization. This includes, in addition to government based repair facilities, and contracted vendor services that require the vehicle to be shipped off site such as radio repair firms, mechanical and bio-medical repair and warranty service. EMS organizations are strongly encouraged to discuss security measures with repair facilities and vendors to confirm that they understand the requirements to secure the vehicle and your compliance expectations. Such requirements may include:
 - Securing the vehicle overnight inside when facility is closed.
 - Not leaving the keys in the vehicle.
 - Not allowing the vehicle to be taken off vendor premise for any reason other than directly related to the repair and return of the unit to the owning organization.
 - Reporting to the EMS organization and Law Enforcement officials any unusual interest in the vehicle while in their possession.
- Decommissioned vehicles slated for resale to parties other than other bona fide emergency response organization, or vehicles scheduled for salvage, should be stripped of agency identifying markings by complete removal or destruction by grinding. Uninstalling of emergency warning devices and other EMS markings is strongly encouraged.

Uniforms and Identification Articles:

- Safeguard agency patches and ID cards to ensure defense against unauthorized access.
- Adoption of counterfeit resistant identification credentials that incorporate a photo of the authorized member.



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- Alerting uniform store vendors of the need to establish and verify the identity of an individual seeking to purchase your uniform articles. This should be accomplished by verifying “Agency Identification Credentials”. More comprehensive processes such as a contact number with your agency to verify identity against the database of authorized active members should be considered.

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International Association of EMS Chiefs

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