

EMS PERSONNEL ENDANGERMENT



The first goal of protecting responding EMS personnel from criminal assault relates to the importance of respecting law enforcements responsibility for assuring scene security prior to responding to a patient in a known hazardous situation. Our desire to render emergency medical care must be tempered by our recognition of the limitations of our role as well as our responsibility to our fellow EMS responders.

However, unanticipated physical threats may develop in the course of treatment and transport of emergency patients. In their most extreme form, they may represent an immediate life threat to EMS responders. Should this occur at the scene or during transport, immediate notification of the appropriate law enforcement jurisdiction should occur. In order to help ensure a means by which EMS personnel could request law enforcement assistance in a covert fashion, a Code 99 category communication patch may be used as follows:



-
1. EMS personnel should contact their dispatch center and/or receiving facility to notify them of a Code 99 situation and/or transport.
 2. In anticipation of the arrival of a Code 99 transport at our receiving facilities, our hospitals should consider responding with in-house security and should alert the local jurisdictional law enforcement agency.