

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Manual: Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number: 412 Page: 1 of 2
Subject: On-Scene Security (Holdbacks)	
References:	Effective: 01/01/2004

I. POLICY

This procedure shall be utilized to determine scene security in order to minimize risk to agencies responding to prehospital incidents. It is understood by all emergency responders, including EMS, that there is an inherent level of risk. It is the responsibility of both dispatchers and prehospital personnel to assure that the safety of responding personnel is the foremost consideration when at the scene of a medical incident. This policy can not address every incident that may place the pre-hospital personnel at risk and good common sense must be used at all times.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Hold Back

The term used to advise prehospital agencies that the response location might contain safety hazards to responding personnel and that responding agencies should not enter the scene until it is determined secure by an appropriate agency.

B. Secure Scene

A response location that does not contain direct safety hazards or unusual risk to responding personnel.

C. Safety Hazard

The term safety hazard in this policy means those hazards that exist outside of the normal hazards that responding agencies deal with on a daily basis in the course of performing their job (i.e., physical risk, hazmat, etc.).

D. Unsecured Scene

A response location that may contain safety hazards or risk to responding personnel due to physical violence or hazmat.

III. PROCEDURE

A. A scene shall be considered unsecured in the following situations:

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1. Assaults when assailant is still on scene at time of dispatch.
 2. Weapons involved at time of dispatch (knives, guns, chains, bat, etc.).
 3. Known violence at the scene at time of dispatch.
 4. Hazardous materials (if prehospital personnel identify a hazardous material and no fire response, request response of fire department).
 5. Dispatcher discretion (see section B below).
- B. When a call is received and scene security is questionable, additional information shall be obtained from the calling party (i.e., assault, violent behavior). If the scene security is still questionable, advise the on-duty Dispatch Supervisor. The Dispatch Supervisor will make a determination to declare the scene unsecured and request law enforcement response.
- C. A responding EMS unit will be advised of an unsecured scene immediately (with notation being placed in the comments section of the CAD). The crew will be told to hold back until the scene is declared secured by law enforcement, fire department, EMS, and/or Dispatch Supervisor. The first responder agency will also be advised that the EMS unit is holding back due to an unsecured scene.
- D. Law enforcement will respond to all unsecured scenes and fire services will be notified of all Hazmats.
- E. EMS and first responders responding to an unsecured scene shall attempt to hold back at the same location (coordination between agencies can take place on CALCORD frequency if needed)
- F. Any EMS unit responding with first responders shall utilize the ranking fire or law enforcement personnel as the incident commander at the scene and follow any additional guidelines of that department for scene security procedures.
- G. The time the unit is cleared to enter the scene will be placed in the comment section of the CAD screen or retained in the call history based upon the procedures for that dispatch center.