

Policy and Procedures

Title: Scene Safety

Date issued / last revision: September 1, 2002

Date effective: Immediately

Scene Safety

Statement:

Cooperstown Medical Transport, Inc. (CMT) depends on the well being of all its employees and any observers. A patient cannot receive appropriate care if the providers themselves become another patient.

Purpose:

This policy is to establish a guideline to be used is crews are placed in the given situation.

Scope:

This policy applies to all employees of CMT, full time, part time, interns and observers.

Policy:

1. If at any time during a call, an ambulance or fly car crew does not feel safe, they are encouraged to leave the scene. Refer to *Crime Scenes / Criminal Activity* and *Hazardous Material Incident* policies.
2. Once the determination has been made to leave the scene, the crew should exit as quickly and safely as possible.
3. Once personnel and equipment (ideally) are back in the vehicle, the unit should move to a safe location, usually about one block or 1000 feet away. If firearms are involved, the distance should be at least one half mile.
4. At the same time, the crew will notify the dispatcher via radio that they are relocating to a safer area. Specify where the unit will be staging and the reason for leaving (i.e. violent situation, wires down, etc.). Also notify the dispatcher of the criteria under which the unit will return to the scene (i.e. when law enforcement arrives, etc.).
5. If the crew is advised to return to the scene and still find an unsafe situation, the crew may again leave and repeat the above outlined process.
6. The Dispatcher should notify a Supervisor if a crew had to leave a scene due to safety reasons.
7. An incident report will be filed by the crew(s) involved detailing the circumstances of the call prior to the end of their shift.