



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS
Post Office Box 1400, Clinton, MS 39056-1400
Phone: 601-924-7744 • Fax: 601-924-7325 • 800#: 800-34-NAEMT
URL: <http://www.naemt.org> • E-mail: info@naemt.org

POSITION STATEMENT:

Recommended Operational Security (OPSEC) Measures (UPDATE):

With the additional suspicious activities involving EMS units that have occurred within the last two weeks, most notably the New Jersey incidents, NAEMT feels it is prudent to update and redistribute the previously released recommended OPSEC strategies. The heightened state of threat for terrorist incidents requires greater operational security and situational awareness tactics be employed by EMS members and organizations. Consistent with our assessment of this threat, the NAEMT has adopted the following position with respect to EMS organizations sharing threat information with their members, the protection of the physical assets & identification mediums that identify EMS members as well as securing of official vehicles required to deliver EMS services.

EMS organizations should seriously contemplate adopting the following initial steps for their operational security assessment:

EMT's and Paramedics:

- EMT's and Paramedics should be provided an updated security issues 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 and should be conducted as frequently as new threat/security information requires.
- EMT's and Paramedics should be provided the opportunity by their respective EMS organizations to develop a greater sense of operational security and situational awareness. While the threats EMS faces are not new, they continually change requiring greater acuity and understanding.
- EMT's and Paramedics should be provided access to necessary training and personal protective equipment that is required to prepare for and respond to acts of terrorism.

Vehicles:

- Accountability of all vehicles-marked and unmarked-this includes tracking vehicles that are in-service, off service - reserve status, off-service--repair status and those that are going for salvage.
- EMS vehicles when unattended should NOT be left running or the keys left in the ignition.
- Tracking of vehicle access must include:
 - Insure 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.
 - Routine and random audits of vehicle and station key access logs should be conducted. Inventory of keys should be conducted to account for all keys. Take requisite security corrective measures should stations or vehicle keys be discovered unaccounted for.

- Insure that EMS vehicles that are off premise for service are accounted for especially when not in direct possession of the EMS organizations. This includes, in addition to government based repair facilities, 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 might be:
 - 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, but not to another 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, uniforms and ID cards to insure defense against unauthorized access.
- Adoption of counterfeit resistant identification credentials that incorporate a photo of the authorized member.
- Alert uniform store vendors of the need to establish and verify the identity of an individual seeking to purchase your agency's 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.

Adopted: NAEMT Executive Council
June 20, 2002

Updated: NAEMT Board of Directors
August 16, 2004