

FIREARMS HANDLING

PURPOSE:

To establish procedures for handling firearms encountered during fire and EMS incidents.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all personnel to know, understand and adhere to this policy.

Background Information:

It is legal in New York for properly licensed individuals to carry a concealed firearm on their person in public. This law also provides that such licensed individuals may carry their firearm while driving or riding in a motor vehicle.

PROCEDURE:

- Firearms encountered at the scene of an emergency should, to the extent possible, remain at that scene and not be handled by fire department personnel
- Firearms at the scene of a fire should not be handled, their location should be noted and command notified.
- Law enforcement personnel are responsible for the handling and proper disposition of firearms. Every effort should be taken to minimize the handling of firearms by fire department personnel. In those rare situations where it becomes necessary to handle a firearm only personnel specifically trained in firearms recognition should handle the weapon.
- Personnel may discreetly ask any patient if they are carrying a firearm on their person. The patient should be informed that this is a standard practice for the department as policy dictates we do not transport any firearm in departmental vehicles. Assure the patient that a law enforcement officer will secure any surrendered firearm.
- A properly performed secondary exam should find a firearm concealed on a patient's body. Again, if a firearm is encountered law enforcement should handle securing the weapon.