



NAEMT Position Statement

Operational Safety and Domestic Preparedness & Planning

Statement: Emergency Medical Services are on the front lines of our nation's domestic defense; positioning EMS practitioners as the first trained responders to arrive following a terrorist attack. Being on the frontlines also places EMS practitioners in a position vulnerable to attack by adversaries. NAEMT supports the development of a culture of safety in all EMS systems in our nation. NAEMT is committed to advocating for the safest practices and regulations that protect and promote EMS practitioner safety through operational security measures and domestic preparedness & planning. This requires the following:

- Sustainable federal funding for programs that will assist local EMS agencies and practitioners in the implementation of measures addressing domestic preparedness, situational awareness of threats and operational security to include:
 - Development of countermeasures that will block access to operational and personal information through internet access and transmission
 - Accessible, coordinated, integrated and sustainable training in preparedness and security for all EMS practitioners using EMS discipline specific content
 - Expanded and integrated communications mechanisms and equipment between local, state and federal responders
- EMS system requirements in the development, implementation and use of operational security measures to include:
 - EMS service development, implementation and use of processes that verify identity and tracking of authorized active members and equipment
 - Timely security issues briefings to EMS practitioners regarding present or emerging threats to their safety or the integrity of the EMS mission
 - EMS service provided training and personal protective equipment required in preparation for and response to acts of terrorism.
 - Safeguarding agency uniforms, patches , ID cards and the use of photo IDs to prevent unauthorized access to agency buildings, vehicles, equipment, and documents

- Accountability and tracking of all agency vehicles (marked and unmarked) including those in-service, out-of-service, reserve vehicles and those that are out-of-service for repairs or are going for salvage
- Service vehicles are secured in a manner that will significantly decrease accessibility and use by unauthorized individuals.
- Service vehicles slated for resale or salvage should be stripped of all agency and EMS markings, including emergency warning devices.
- Emergency Medical Services will participate in local, regional, state and federal preparedness planning

Background: The events of September 11, 2001 spurred the Federal Government to address strategies against threats posed by acts of terrorism. While great strides have been made over the past 8 years, terrorism continues to exist and evolve; threatening EMS services and EMS practitioners. NAEMT remains committed to EMS participation in domestic preparedness planning and the implementation of operational security measures by all emergency medical services.

Adopted: