

2017-139 Concealed Weapons



Westbrook Fire and Rescue Department

Standard Operating Procedure

Section: Administration	TOPIC: Concealed Weapons
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POLICY REFERENCES: State of Maine EMS Rules	APPROVED BY: <hr/> Andrew R. Turcotte Chief of Department

Purpose:

The purpose of this SOP is to provide guidance in regard to handling of weapons that may be found on patients during transport or transfer and to also address the departments policy on employees carrying concealed weapons during the course of duty

Scope:

To establish guidelines on how to properly secure weapons found on a patient during the process of providing EMS Care.

Policy:

For the responsive and cooperative patient

1. When a weapon is found on the patient (i.e. gun, knife, etc) remain calm.
2. Inform the patient that for safety of both you and him/her that his/her weapon will need to be safely secured before transporting to the emergency room.
3. If you are still on scene, request assistance of law enforcement (if not already on scene) and have the patient give the weapon to the law enforcement officer to secure.
4. If you are transporting the patient when the weapon is found, secure weapon in the narcotic cabinet.
5. If you have received safe handling training and are comfortable with making the weapon safe, do so before securing in the cabinet.
6. While enroute to the ED, request for the police department to meet the ambulance at the Hospital. **Hospitals will not take possession of any firearm**, they are able to secure smaller knives. The firearm must remain secured in the ambulance until law enforcement arrives to take possession.
7. Notify the on-duty shift officer of the incident.

For an uncooperative/combatative patient

1. When a weapon is found on the patient (i.e. gun, knife, etc) remain calm.
2. If you are still on scene, request assistance from law enforcement (if not already on scene) and wait for the law enforcement officer to arrive before treating and/or transporting the patient.
3. After law enforcement secures the weapon, transport the patient to the emergency department.
4. If you are transporting the patient when the weapon is found, immediately request the ambulance operator to contact the police for assistance.
5. If you have received safe handling training and are comfortable with making the weapon safe, do so at this time and secure in the narcotics cabinet.
6. Do not attempt to remove a weapon or make a weapon safe unless you have had training and are comfortable doing so.
7. Notify the on-duty shift officer of the incident.

For an unresponsive patient

1. When a weapon is found on the patient (i.e. gun, knife, etc) remain calm.
2. If you are still on scene, request assistance of law enforcement (if not already on scene) and allow the officer to remove the firearm and secure it. If the medical emergency is deemed life threatening, leave the weapon with the on-scene fire officer and/or fire personnel until law enforcement arrives to secure the weapon. DO NOT take the weapon to the emergency room.
3. If you are transporting the patient when the weapon is found, immediately request the ambulance operator to contact the police for assistance.
4. If you have received safe handling training and are comfortable with making the weapon safe, do so at this time and securing in the narcotics cabinet.
5. Do not attempt to remove a weapon or make a weapon safe unless you have had training and are comfortable doing so.
6. Notify the on-duty shift officer of the incident.

Employees Caring Weapons

- A. At no time shall any on duty employee be in possession of a concealed firearm.
- B. The city's Human Resource Policy prohibits any employee or visitor from entering any City Building with any type of weapon or firearm regardless of permit status.
- C. Employees may keep a concealed firearm or weapon inside their vehicle as long as the vehicle is locked and the firearm or weapon is not visible.
- D. The only exception to this policy are police officers or other persons who have been given written consent by the City to carry a weapon or firearm into a City building or City vehicle.

Deviation from Policy

- A. Any deviation from this policy requires immediate notification to the on-duty officer and a written incident report.
- B. All deviations from this policy shall be investigated by the Fire Chief or his/her designee and are subject to discipline, up to and including termination