



**Office of the EMS Coordinator
Saratoga County OES
25 West High St • Ballston Spa, NY 12020**

Important Policy Update

TO: All EMS and Fire Service Responders
RE: Elimination of Staging for EMS Calls
DATE: October 7, 2017

Effective at 06:00 hours on Tuesday, November 7th, 2017, staging for EMS calls will be eliminated. The revised Saratoga County Sheriff's Office Communications Division policy reads as follows:

Scene Safety Issues determined during Chief Complaint Key Questioning

Staging EMS resources at every call with a potential scene safety concern can have dramatic effects on time sensitive patient care needs. The ability to effectively determine the "security" or "safety" of any scene by a call taker is not possible. Responders are the best qualified to make safety determinations based on their training, experience, information provided by the call taker and their observations on arrival. In the event a call taker determines a potential scene safety issue exists including but not limited to assaults, combative patients, overdose (drugs or alcohol), psychiatric, stab wounds and/or gunshot wounds; the call taker shall not instruct EMS units to stage in the area or delay response based solely on a potential scene safety issue. The call shall be prioritized and dispatched in accordance with the contents of this section and during the dispatch transmission "potential scene safety issue" included into the transmission. Responding units shall be advised the specifics of the call that led the call taker to determine the potential issue as well as the ETA of responding law enforcement units. Responding units will advise as to whether they are entering the scene or staging. If responders inquire whether they should stage, they should be instructed that staging is at their discretion. If circumstances change that may affect the safety of the scene (change in level of consciousness, patient leaves scene, etc.), that information shall be provided to responding/staging units.

EMS responders shall be assigned a staging location (determined by Law Enforcement or Communications) for all calls in which an active in progress assault is occurring or in which weapon(s) are actively in use.

This is an important policy change being implemented to better serve the public we protect and improve responder situational awareness. Ultimately, it will serve to enhance scene safety by requiring heightened awareness and conscious decision making during each response. To that end, we have established a web page on the EMS Council site at www.saratogaems.org/safety with resources and training aids for individuals and departments looking for educational resources. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike".

Mike McEvoy, EMS-1