

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines
Fireground Operations

Fireground Operations, SOG 4.24

CONCEALED WEAPONS

1. Intent and Purpose

Securing of weapons (firearms) before treating or transporting patients.
To reduce the potential risk to personnel and the public when responding to calls or transporting a patient that has a weapon (firearms) in their possession.

2. Policy

I. Personnel should be alert to the potential of a patient having a weapon (firearms) in their possession.

II. Weapons (firearms) will not be allowed on any patient or persons while being treated or transported by any Union County Fire Department vehicle. The only exception to this is a dually sworn peace officer acting in an official capacity, this officer may only ride in the non-patient area of the vehicle during transport.

III. If a patient recognized as to carrying a weapon, personnel should immediately request a Police Officer or Sheriff's Deputy respond, if they are not already present on the scene. Personnel should request that the patient disarm him or herself and cause the weapon to be safely secured with a family member or responsible individual. If the patient refuses, members should **withdraw** and wait for the Police Officer or Sheriff's Deputy to arrive.

IV. If the patient is unable to comply due to injuries, illness or unconsciousness and a Police Officer/Sheriff's Deputy or responsible person/family member to secure the weapon is not available, personnel will then control the weapon and place weapon in a securable case and then lock the weapon into the into the designated outside/inside compartment of the emergency vehicle. As soon as possible we will turn the weapon over to a Police Officer or Sheriff's Deputy at the hospital.

V. If the law enforcement official has not arrived before EMS departure from the hospital. Communication should be made with the nearest Police/Sheriff's Office to make arrangements to secure the weapon with that agency before returning to the Fire/EMS station.

VI. If the transport is to an out of County hospital or facility, the medical team should continue to secure the weapon in their vehicle and make needed arrangements to secure the weapon at the appropriate Police Station/Sheriff's Office before returning to quarters. Or return to quarters and secure the weapon in a pre-determined area of the Fire/EMS station until law enforcement arrives.

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VII. **Common Sense shall be the rule and goal when dealing with firearms.**

VIII. Be sure to note on the report the name of the person to whom the weapon is being released to.

IX. If the patient is a peace officer, his or her weapon (firearm) is to be secured by another peace officer.

X. Equipment needed to secure weapons:

- i. Securable case
- ii. Union County Fire Chiefs Association will initially supply cases.
- iii. Cases shall be issued to all Union County Departments for each Emergency vehicle and marked staff/command vehicles in their fleet.