



Standards Policy: Transport Policy Section

Optional: Weapons and Explosive Devices

Policy:

Pursuant to 10A NCAC 13P .0216; Weapons, whether lethal, less lethal or non-lethal, and explosives (concealed or visible) shall not be worn or carried aboard an ambulance or EMS non-transporting vehicle within the State of North Carolina when the vehicle is operating in any patient treatment or transport capacity or is available for such function.

Weapons authorized for use by EMS personnel attached to a law enforcement tactical team in accordance with the weapons policy as set forth in Rule .0201 of this Section may be secured in a locked, dedicated compartment or gun safe mounted within the ambulance or non-transporting vehicle for use when dispatched in support of the law enforcement tactical team, but are not to be worn or carried open or concealed by any EMS personnel in the performance of normal EMS duties under any circumstances. Rule .0201 requires every EMS System to have “a weapons plan for any weapon as set forth in Rule 10A NCAC 13P .0216 of this Section;” This NCCEP policy does not supersede local EMS system policy.

Purpose:

To ensure the safety of EMS personnel, patients, and the public at large.

Definitions:

Conducted electrical weapons and chemical irritants such as mace, pepper (oleoresin capsicum) spray, and tear gas shall be considered weapons for the purpose of this Rule.

- Weapon is defined as any device with a tube, including mechanical attachments, from which a projectile is delivered by force of an explosive and may be lethal or less lethal including conducted electrical device. Weapons may be either concealed or visible
- Chemicals considered weapons:
Mace or Pepper spray (OC - oleoresin capsicum, CS – orthochlorbenzalmalonitrile
CN – alphachloroacetaphenone)
- Projectile is typically represented by bullets, shells, or slugs and may be metallic or non-metallic in composition

Procedure:

- During scene size-up and during your secondary patient assessment all patients should be screened for weapons or explosive devices, preferably before entering an ambulance.
- Screen all patients regardless if they have been screened by Law Enforcement.
- Individuals riding in the ambulance (friends, family) should be asked about concealed weapons.
- In the event a weapon or explosive device is found in an ambulance during transportation, the weapon or explosive device will be safely secured or turned over to Law Enforcement.
- Ask all patients, including family/friends, transported if they have a concealed weapon.
- **“Do you have any firearms or weapons on your person”**
- Likely scenarios EMS may encounter with individual found carrying a weapon:
- Individual has capacity, or does not have capacity, but is cooperative
- **Individual does not have capacity and is not cooperative:**
- **In this situation EMS personnel should retreat immediately to safety and notify Law Enforcement to secure the scene**
- It is recommended that EMS systems have a lock-box of sufficient size to accommodate a typical hand-gun on each EMS vehicle or available to EMS crews to safely and securely stow and transport a weapon.
- This Rule shall not apply to duly appointed law enforcement officers.