

# Fauquier County Department of Fire Rescue

## **OPERATING PROCEDURE**

No. 311

### **Securing Weapons**

Effective Date: August 7, 2020

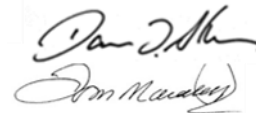
Page 1 of 2

Revision Date:

Forms:

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Approved By: Tom Marable, President VFRA



## **PURPOSE**

To establish guidelines for safe practices when transporting patients that possess weapons.

## **SCOPE**

Applies to all personnel operating with the Fauquier County Department of Fire-Rescue as well as the Fauquier County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association and its associated departments.

## **I. PROCEDURE**

- A. All members of the Department will, in the performance of their duties, conduct themselves in a manner as to promote safety and minimize risk of injury. This policy pertains to the safe handling of all weapons, including and not limited to firearms, hunting knives, and electronic weapons. The goal is for EMS providers to minimally handle any weapon to keep crew members and patient safe. Optimally, a patient with a concealed weapon should have it taken control of by law enforcement without cause undue delay in treatment or transportation. No weapon will be transported unsecured inside the ambulance whether belonging to a patient or family member. The only exception to the rule will be for on duty law enforcement personnel.
- B. Securing a Weapon
  1. Whenever possible law enforcement should be utilized to secure any weapon.
  2. If the patient is conscious and able to do so. The patient should secure the weapon in their home or other safe, and secure place.
  3. Assume ALL weapons are loaded. Never attempt to unload a firearm or engage the safety.
  4. If the weapon is to be removed by EMS it must be tagged with the patient's information and locked in the ALS cabinet. An efficient method of tagging is the use of triage tape or tags with the person's name written on the tape or tag. The key for the cabinet should remain in a crewmembers control until law enforcement can take control of the weapon.
  5. If a weapon is found in a holster, the weapon should remain in the holster while it is secured. If the holster cannot be removed from the patient, cut away any restraining belts or clothing and secure the holstered weapon as per section four above.

**Desire to Serve**

**Ability to Perform**

**Courage to Act**

<b>Securing Weapons</b>		No. 311
Effective Date: August 7, 2020	Revision Date:	Page 2 of 2

- 6. If the patient is to be transported via helicopter air ambulance, the weapon will need to be transferred to law enforcement.
- 7. Securing of the weapon and transfer to law enforcement should be documented in the PCR, along with the name of the department and name/badge number of the receiving officer.
- 8. In the case a law enforcement officer is being transported as a patient. The officer's weapon should be secured in accordance with their department policies. If no other officer is available to secure the patients weapon, or the patient's condition dictates immediate transport, it should be secured in the same manner as noted above.
- 9. If a patient refuses to allow their weapon to be secured, the scene is to be considered unsafe and law enforcement should be requested to respond to the scene.
- 10. If a weapon is found while transporting a patient, the ambulance should be stopped and the weapon should be secured as noted above. Law enforcement should be requested to meet the ambulance at the receiving facility to transfer the weapon to law enforcement.
- 11. A patient's weapon should never be brought into the hospital and the weapon should be handled in a manner stated above.