

Kalamazoo County Medical Control Authority
System Protocols
GUIDELINES FOR EMS STAGING

Date: October, 2015

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I. Background and Guidelines

Medical Priority Dispatch call taking procedures include recommendations for various situations, but do not mandate the staging of EMS resources. EMS staging should be a collective and communicated decision between call-takers and responders based on situational analysis.

In consideration for the safety of EMS providers, the following guidelines for staging resources/sending law enforcement concurrently to the scene should be considered as EMS responders are dispatched:

1. As Emergency Medical Dispatch call taking protocols are followed, the suggestion to stage resources/solicit assistance from law enforcement should be considered, but does not mandate the staging of EMS resources.
2. In the judgment of call takers/responders, any sense during the call taking and dispatch process that there may exist a real or potential threat to responders on scene, EMS resources may stage.
3. If staging is determined by field providers or 911 call takers to be prudent, the *rationale* for “staging” resources should be communicated to responding units. Consider using terminology such as “recommend stage” followed by a reason such as “questionable information from caller.”
4. EMS responses that call for “staging” should be non-emergent to the staging area until it has been determined that there is no need for staging and the priority of the call has been determined by the Emergency Medical Dispatcher.

II. EMS Staging “Triggers”

The following triggers should be **considered** for potential EMS resource staging: This consideration would be qualified by the type of responder, i.e., the licensed EMS resource being dispatched serves as a law enforcement agency or a fire department that would mitigate the incident (as appropriate).

- Known or suspected weapons involved or accessible on scene
- Incident is product of violence: Victim or other parties have been indicated as violent and are believed to still be on scene or will return to scene shortly
- Caller demonstrates hostility toward dispatcher/responders

The following **should not** be considered as situations that *mandate* staging:

- An intentional overdose without other indications of violent threat on scene
- Nursing home/long term care facility incident (Facility staff are present to assist and there is considered to be an extremely low probability of weapons with likelihood of injury to responders.)

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- Attempted suicide without other evidence of threatening behavior (most attempted suicides)
- Violence against self (patient) and patient is unconscious

911 Call Takers, EMS Dispatchers and EMS responders have the latitude to make staging decisions based on caller information and a situational assessment upon responder arrival on scene, using experience and judgment. In consideration of the safety of all responders, dispatch personnel should take steps to afford law enforcement resources are dispatched immediately, if requested. This may require a request for mutual aid during times of high call volume.

Situations in which EMS was unnecessarily directed to stage or where staging may have been indicated but not recommended should be reported to KCMCA using the KCMCA incident report form