

Cape Elizabeth Fire-Rescue Department Policy & Procedure Manual

Policy:	Violent & Law Enforcement Restrained Patients		
Section:	Operations: Emergency Medical Services		
Policy #	7.707	Date Effective:	01-01-2016

The Cape Elizabeth Fire-Rescue Department routinely responds to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) calls. Some of these EMS calls will involve combative, aggressive and/or law enforcement restrained patients. It is essential for EMS providers with the Cape Elizabeth Fire-Rescue Department to maintain a healthcare provider relationship with our patients.

To ensure that we provide excellent care to our patients, EMS Providers will adhere to the following guidelines when dealing with aggressive, combative, and law enforcement restrained patients:

1. A Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) from the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) will secure scenes when known violence has occurred or a reasonable chance of violence to be effected on EMS staff has been reported. Department staff will wait for the AHJ LEO before entry is made into these scenes.
2. Any patient that is lawfully restrained (i.e. handcuffed), placed under arrest, and/or into “protective custody” by an AHJ LEO must be transported with an AHJ LEO. The AHJ LEO must be in the patient compartment to ensure crew safety and remove restraints if necessary for the care of the patient.
Additionally:
 - a. Restrained patients must be transported in a position that does not compromise their airway or place them at risk for positional asphyxia.
 - b. EMS Providers are to comply with the most current version of the Maine EMS Prehospital Treatment Protocols in regards to the restraint of patients.
3. EMS Providers will advocate for their patient’s healthcare needs and adhere to their scope of practice as EMS Providers while rendering emergency medical care.

UPDATED & REVIEWED: December 23, 15
Deputy Chief/EMS Coordinator Eric Wellman
Chief of Department Peter Gleeson