



# CRIME SCENE MANAGEMENT



## Escambia County, Florida – 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Medical Protocol

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First Responder personnel shall follow the directions of law enforcement with respect to crime scene management. This direction should not prevent nor detract from quality patient care.

In the event that First Responder personnel discover a crime scene, or are at a crime scene without law enforcement, an immediate request for law enforcement shall be made. Until such time as law enforcement arrives, First Responder personnel shall assure their own safety and, if possible, attempt to follow the guidelines contained in this protocol.

### The following guidelines should be followed:

Parking of First Responder vehicles, departmental and/or personal, should be done in such a way as to provide access for First Responder personnel but with consideration for the crime scene; i.e., do not run over expended shell casings or destroy physical evidence such as tire tracks, foot prints and/or broken glass.

Entry to the crime scene should be made by the **minimum** number of First Responder personnel necessary to access and provide care to patient(s).

Entry and exit to the crime scene should be accomplished by the same route, if possible.

Care should be taken not to disturb any physical evidence. Physical evidence can be as small as a single hair.

Removal of the patient's clothing should be kept to a minimum. Clothing removal should be done in a manner which will minimize the loss of physical evidence; i.e., do not cut clothing through bullet or knife holes.

Clothing and all other personal articles of the patient are to be left in the possession of law enforcement personnel. Do not discard anything.


Put wrappers and other disposable "trash," which accumulates as patient care is rendered, in a single site away from the patient and/or potential crime scene evidence. Do not pick up on-scene trash items and discard because evidence may be destroyed. On-scene law enforcement personnel may suggest a site to be used for trash which would be most ideal to maximize preservation of evidence.



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Every effort to cooperate with law enforcement should be made. In the event of disagreement with law enforcement, First Responder personnel should document the problem and refer the matter to their superior for follow-up and/or action. If the disagreement involves, in the opinion of First Responder care personnel, an issue that will or could result in patient harm, an immediate notification to the responding EMS personnel will be made.



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