



REGION 11 CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM POLICY	Title: Securing A Weapon Prior To Transport
	Section: Transportation
	Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium
	Effective: December 6, 2023

SECURING A WEAPON PRIOR TO TRANSPORT

I. PURPOSE

1. To define the process for securing a weapon by licensed EMS personnel within Region 11.
2. To safely assess and provide medical care for individuals carrying a weapon or firearm.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Weapon: A firearm or other object that is designed or used for inflicting bodily harm or physical damage.
- B. Firearm Concealed Carry Act: An Illinois law that allows individuals with a license to legally carry a firearm except in defined prohibited areas.

III. EMS RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Safety

1. If there is any concern of scene safety, EMS personnel should retreat to a safe zone and call for law enforcement.
2. EMS personnel should not attempt to unload or render the firearm safe; this is the responsibility of law enforcement.

B. Securing the Firearm

1. Prior to transport, the individual should leave the firearm or weapon appropriately secured at home.
2. If this is not possible, law enforcement should be contacted to secure the firearm or weapon prior to transport.
3. If law enforcement is not immediately available, the firearm or weapon should ideally be secured in a locked location in the ambulance prior to transport.

C. Hospital Communication

1. During the pre-notification call to the receiving hospital, the paramedic should state "I have a firearm (or weapon) secured on board" and ask to notify hospital security or the public safety team prior to arrival.
2. Upon arrival in the Emergency Department and after patient care is transferred, the weapon should be transferred to hospital security or the public safety team.



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3. Under the Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act, a licensee may not knowingly carry a firearm into prohibited areas which include a public or private hospital or hospital affiliate, mental health facility, or nursing home.

IV. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

- A. If assisting EMS with patient care in an ambulance, a law enforcement officer should maintain custody of their firearm.
- B. If a law enforcement officer is the patient in an ambulance, another officer shall take custody of their firearm.