

It's EMS  
*NOT* the Police Department

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**EMSWORLD**

New York EMT Shot and Killed by Patient



Dallas paramedic responding to a reported shooting shot and critically injured



Police Chase Patient Who Allegedly Stole Ambulance, Threatened EMT



Man who assaulted paramedic released with warning



Ambulance shot while medics treat 'unruly' patient

**DAILY NEWS**

EMT killed in the Bronx after man steals ambulance, runs her over



Police: Man chased paramedics with ax, tried to steal ambulance



NC man arrested after shooting into ambulance



JEMS - Emergency Medical Services

July 9, 2013 · Washington ·

Maine EMT Briefly Held Hostage during Call  
Rockland man barricaded himself with the EMT in a law office,

**Chicago Tribune**

Ambulance shot at while transporting stabbing victim

I HAVE A LOT MORE  
HEADLINES OF HOW  
DANGEROUS THE JOB CAN BE  
BUT MY PRESENTATION IS  
ONLY 20 MINUTES, NOT A  
WEEK

# Tools of the Trade

EMS



Police



*Yeah, So what's your point Linda?*

“We think of cops being in a hazardous profession, but not EMTs and paramedics.”

*Jennifer Taylor*

Assoc. Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health  
Drexel’s School of Public Health.

You don't have a gun

Don't put yourself in situations  
that may have to be resolved  
by those in a profession that  
carry guns



# EMS work has significant risks

- Complacency is deadly
- Being fatigued is deadly
- Speed is deadly
- Patients can be deadly
- Families/acquaintances can be deadly
- Our decisions can be deadly to us, our partners and our patients
- Our decisions affect our families

Just because it hasn't happened  
to you or someone you know  
doesn't mean it cant !

# Case Study – Detroit EMS

- Medic attempts to separate patient from her overbearing companion for treatment.
- Medics punched and slashed repeatedly with box cutter. Medics report “bleeding badly”.
- Female patient flees the scene
- PD ETA 5 minutes. Other EMS on the way
- Medics drive themselves to hospital
- “Don't send anyone over there, that guy is wielding a knife.”



U.S. Fire Administration  
Working for a fire-safe America

## Violence Against EMS Responders

Posted: Aug. 31, 2017

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 2,600 EMS workers received hospital treatment in 2014 for injuries resulting from work-related violence.

# Research takeaways

- EMS workers are more likely to be assaulted by patients than firefighters.
- Gender is not the determining factor of who gets assaulted.
- Dispatch information is not always accurate.
- Lack of knowledge and survival skill sets.

# Recommendations

- Training in skills such as de-escalation.
- Signage in the back of ambulances that states, “It is a felony to assault a first responder,” may deter assaults.
- Flagging known problematic locations.
- Proper rest and breaks for responders.

# Have you ever....

- Responded to a 10-13?
- Not call for police or back-up?
- Entered or did not withdraw from a potentially dangerous situation?
- Driven at a high rate of speed?
- Not set up flares?
- Worked when fatigued

# Optimism Bias

- The belief one is more likely to experience good outcomes and less likely to experience bad outcomes.
- Disregard the reality of an overall situation because we think we are excluded from the potential negative effects.
- Increases as we survive bad experiences but that raises our risk exponentially.



If you *knowingly* place yourself and your crew into risky situations you need to assess the following...

# Which trumps which?



# Next Steps

- Assess your response habits and those of your coworkers
- Policies and training at the Agency level.
- Coordination with law enforcement