



Extreme Safety Makeover!

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- Tributes paid to fallen Va. Paramedic Joshua Weissman, 33, who suffered severe head injury in 30-foot fall, was described as 'committed, dedicated, professional, to the end' (February 2012).
- Paramedic and civilian killed in ambulance, SUV collision. EMS lieutenant David Restuccio was transporting a patient when a speeding SUV crashed into his ambulance (August 28, 2012).
- Witnesses: Ohio ambulance ran stop sign, killing 5 (3 paramedics and 2 patients) (July 2007).



- Ala. EMT struck, killed while treating crash victim
- Laura Elizabeth Pullam, 29, of Lowndesboro, was responding to two motor vehicle crashes when she was struck by a 2006 Chevrolet pickup truck (December 2010).
- Fla. EMS captain dies on duty from heart attack (2009).
- NY volunteer EMT shot, killed by patient (February 2009).



“BSI, scene is safe!”



... REALLY??????

SCENE SIZE-UP	Takes, or verbalizes, body substance isolation precautions	C	
	Determines the scene is safe	C	
	Determines the mechanism of injury nature of illness	1	
	Considers stabilization of spine	C	

Some things are not always
what they seem...



- **WHO** ensures scene safety?
- **WHAT** is scene safety?
- **WHERE** do we ensure scene safety?
- **WHEN** do we ensure scene safety?
- **WHY** do we ensure scene safety?
- **HOW** do we ensure scene safety?



How safe are YOU?

- Fitness
- Health
- Situational awareness
- Complacency
- How tired are you?



Where Is Your Work Environment?



Are there Safety Concerns In Your Ambulance?

How Safe Is Your Ride?

- Estimated 9,000 crashes per year.
- Estimated one fatality each week.
- 10 serious injuries per day.
- The most lethal vehicle on the road both per mile traveled and per vehicle.
- Exempt from most FMVSS standards.
- 74% of EMS personnel deaths are transportation related!
- Unique dynamics in our “office”.

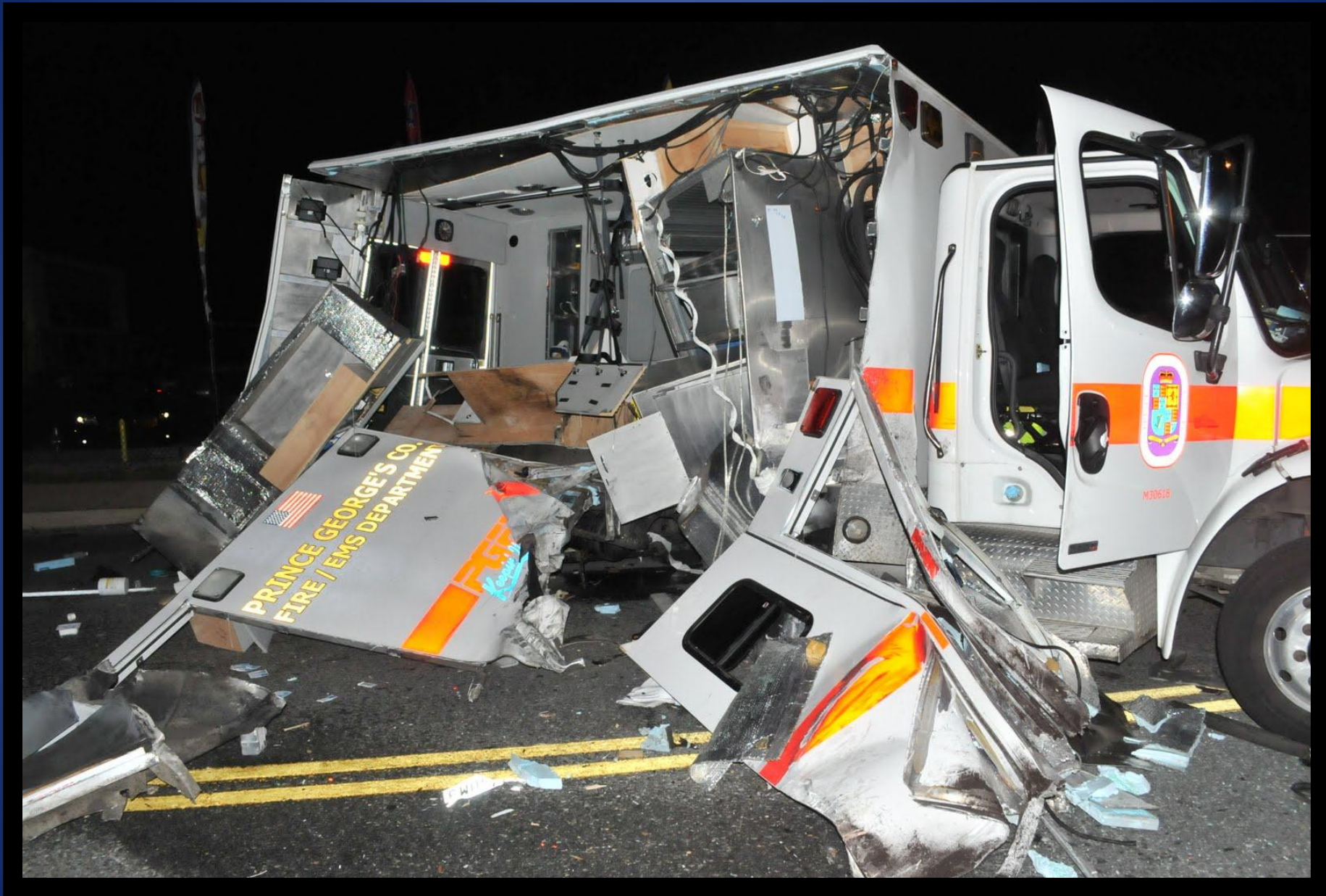


What are the Potential Hazards?





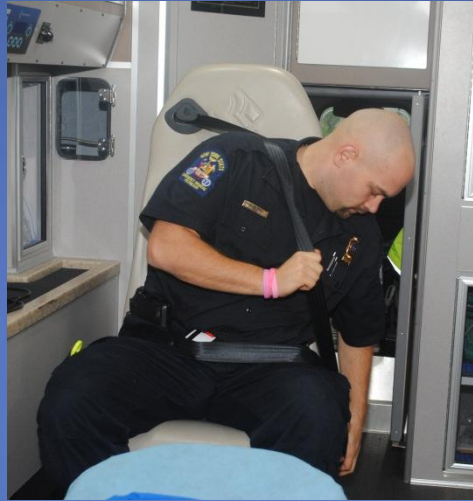






How to Avoid Injury In the Ambulance

- Preventive maintenance
- Inspect vehicles
- Decrease distracted driving
- Use restraints
- Hands-free/hands-off care and devices
- S-L-O-W down!
- Demand safety from manufacturers
- Tiered response
- On-going driver training and evaluation
- Hands-free telecommunications
- Sterile cab
- Change culture...



Firefighter-medic ejected, killed in fire truck crash
David Raymond Chew died Monday as passenger in fire truck
that ran off road, crashed into trees



Residential Responses







Nursing Homes



Roadway Responses











Violence Against EMS Providers

- Violence against EMS responses happens roughly 8.5% of all calls.
- Patient's are responsible for violence against EMS providers 89.7% of the time.
- What's your exit strategy?
- What if you had to escape?
- "Blue Light Brigade"



- Would you be able to recognize when a person is becoming violent?
- Things could go badly...
- What are the warning signs??
- Diffusion techniques



Safe Patient Handling

- Lifting and moving...and more lifting and moving
- Risk factors
- Safe patient moving means what?



Recap

- Many hazards exist
- Be aware of your situation and prepare to respond to that situation
- Practice scene safety
- Know what to look for and how to respond
- Have a plan of escape
- Keep yourself well
- Use *all* of your senses when sizing up the situation
- Everyone goes home alive and well
- Shun complacency