

## Responding into Crime Scenes

### PURPOSE

This guideline will be used when law enforcement personnel advise EMS that they have responded to a crime scene or EMS determines that a crime scene may exist. The purpose is to ensure the protection of patient welfare as well as to ensure the ability to conduct an effective and thorough investigation.

### RESPONSE & ON SCENE PROCEDURES

1. Once advised by law enforcement of the potential of a crime scene, get whatever pertinent information needed and ask for instructions once you are on scene.
2. When approaching a potential crime scene that is being protected by law enforcement personnel, the lead EMT may request entry into the area to determine life status of the individual.
3. If law enforcement personnel refuses EMS access to the crime scene, do not become upset. Notify the River Falls Ambulance Director or an Assistant Director immediately.
4. When personnel are allowed access into the scene, the highest trained senior EMT should enter to minimize disturbance of the crime scene.
5. **DO NOT** attempt resuscitation if the patient has no pulse, no spontaneous respiration, AND meets criteria outlined in Medical Direction Guidelines “Obviously Dead”.
6. If treatment and/or resuscitation are warranted, follow appropriate Medical Direction Guidelines, since patient care takes priority over the crime scene. Try to disturb as little as possible on the scene when caring for a patient.
7. When on scene and you need to examine the victim:
  - a. Keep your medical equipment close to the victim.
  - b. Stay close to the body.
  - c. Keep your hands out of any blood that has pooled.
  - d. Do not wander around the scene.
  - e. Minimize destruction of the patient’s clothing. If the patient’s clothing has a puncture, do not use the hole in the clothing to start cutting. Begin cutting at another part of the garment. Removed clothing should be left with the patient to be collected by law enforcement personnel.
  - f. **DO NOT** go through the victim’s personal effects, clean the body or cover the body with a sheet or other material (if patient is expired).
  - g. **DO NOT** move, take, or handle any object at the scene or litter the crime scene with medical equipment, dressings, bandages, etc.
  - h. If resuscitation efforts are deemed necessary, transfer the victim from the scene to the vehicle expeditiously and stabilize the victim in the vehicle, when possible.
  - i. If the patient relates any information relating to the crime, while in transit to the medical facility, inform law enforcement personnel at once.