



2026 ANNUAL MEETING

Specialty Workshops, Scientific Assembly & Trade Show



January 26-31, 2026

Tampa, FL

JW Marriott Tampa Water Street

Evolution of the Relationship Between EMS & Police

David K. Tan, M.D., EMT-T, FAEMS
Advocacy Chair and Past President

National Association of EMS Physicians[®] (NAEMSP[®])

www.naemsp.org



DISCLOSURE SLIDE

SPEAKER DISCLOSURE / COI STATEMENT

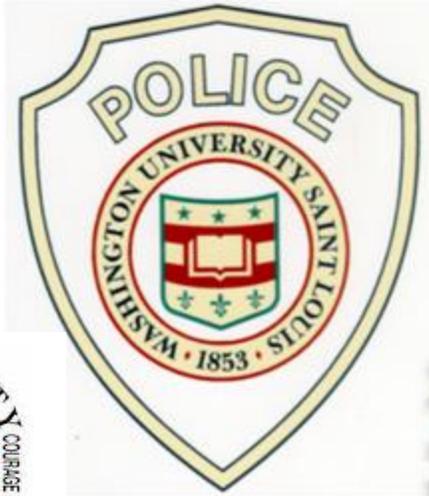
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I, David K. Tan, have the following commercial relationship(s) to disclose:

- Hinckley Medical, Physician Advisory Board
- Lexipol/EMS1, Editorial Advisory Board



Background (or “why am I the one giving this talk?”)



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**Eastern Missouri
Police Academy**



Historical Context of this Module

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Briefly discuss the EMS/Police interface
- Ponder your roles and responsibilities should you become a police department physician
- Appreciate how lessons learned from law enforcement training and education can be used in the practice of EMS Medicine

<p>2024 ANNUAL MEETING</p> <p>EMS Physician/PD Interface</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has evolved well beyond SWAT <p><i>"Docs with Glocks"</i></p> <p>This will not be a TEMS lecture</p> 	<p>2024 ANNUAL MEETING</p> <p>How does support of Police agencies benefit the EMS System?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrol AED Programs may be directly supported by your local ambulance service fire dept. 	<p>2024 ANNUAL MEETING</p> <p>How does support of Police agencies benefit the EMS System?</p>  
<p>2024 ANNUAL MEETING</p> <p>How does support of Police agencies benefit the EMS System?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupational Health and Wellness Programs <p>Guidance for the Medical Evaluation of Law Enforcement Officers provided by ACOEM</p> 	<p>2024 ANNUAL MEETING</p> <p>How does support of Police agencies benefit the EMS System?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narcan® Training and Utilization • Training in recognition and management of the RASS +4 patient 	<p>2024 ANNUAL MEETING</p> <p>How does support of Police agencies benefit the EMS System?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Responder Training • Self-Aid Buddy Aid (SABA) Training 
<p>2024 ANNUAL MEETING</p> <p>How does support of Police agencies benefit the EMS System?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Shooter/Hostile Events (ASHE) • Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks (CCTA) 	<p>Approaching Police Agencies: Relationship Building</p> <p>LEOs: not necessarily known for being warm and fuzzy...</p> 	<p>Approaching Police Agencies: Relationship Building</p> <p>Public Information Officers (PIO) are a great resource</p> 
<p>EMS/Police Relationships: Maintaining and Building</p> <p>Once your programs are established, maintain and build</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As mentioned yesterday: face time, regular meetings, be the source (of help and information) <p><i>Becomes much easier to handle controversies that may arise</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime scene vs need to move/treat victims • Medical emergency or "just drunk" 	<p>Physicians as Officers</p>  <p>Jeff Ho, M.D. Faroukh Mehkri, D.O. Alex Eastman, M.D.</p>	<p>Physicians as Officers</p>  <p>John Sligh, M.D. Denis Fitzgerald, M.D. Jeff Metzger, M.D.</p>



Historical Context of this Module

Intersection of Law and EMS

POLICE	MEDICINE
Powers of Arrest	Restraint/Hold Order
Situational Awareness	Workplace Safety
Safe Resolution	Safe Resolution

#NAEMSP2024

Tag us @NAEMSP



Then this happened...priorities shifted



REUTERS

Colorado paramedics found guilty in death of Elijah McClain

By Brad Brooks

December 23, 2023 3:18 PM CST · Updated 7 days ago



A new focus emerged...

- Less emphasis on the role of the EMS physician in a police department
- More discussion on how EMS physicians continue to be the advocate **within complex systems of care** with:
 - Acute Behavioral Emergencies (ABE) as a backdrop.



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Challenges

- Many of our agencies still work in silos



Challenges

- Yet, we are ALL on major scenes *together*



Opportunities

- The EMS physician in the public safety system can be seen as the “glue” that can bring all aspects together to best meet the needs of:
 - Patient
 - Community
 - Responders (EMS, Police, and Fire)



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EMS and Law Enforcement Interface

- Building on our success with this Position Statement...



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Clinical Care and Restraint of Agitated or Combative Patients by Emergency Medical Services Practitioners

Douglas F. Kupas, MD, Gerald C. Wydro, MD, David K. Tan, MD, Richard Kamin, MD, Andrew J. Harrell IV, MD, Alvin Wang, DO

POSITION

The National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) has had a position statement on patient restraint since 2002(1), which was updated in 2017(2). This document updates and replaces these previous statements and is now a joint position statement with the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO), National EMS Management Association (NEMSMA), National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) and the American Paramedic Association (APA).

EMS and Law Enforcement Interface

- Early 2024; Working Group: agree on best practices among Police, Fire, and EMS on-scene of potentially volatile incidents



EMS and Law Enforcement Interface

- An intense and historic collaboration among three major organizations representing Police, EMS, and Fire



Culminated in a joint position statement

PREHOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE
2024, VOL. 28, NO. 8, 1058–1062
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10903127.2024.2402530>

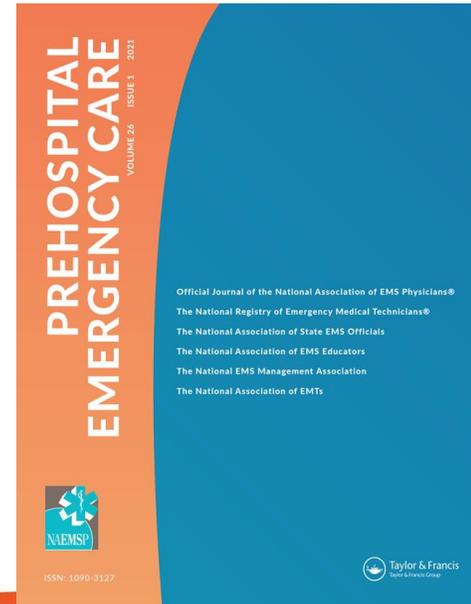


POSITION STATEMENTS



Consensus Statement of the National Association of EMS Physicians International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Chiefs of Police: Best Practices for Collaboration Between Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services During Acute Behavioral Emergencies

Michael K. Levy^a , David K. Tan^b, David Q. McArdle^c, Mike McEvoy^d , Douglas F. Kupas^e ,
Gerald Beltran^f , and Diane L. Miller^g 



Culminated in a joint position statement

IACP 2025

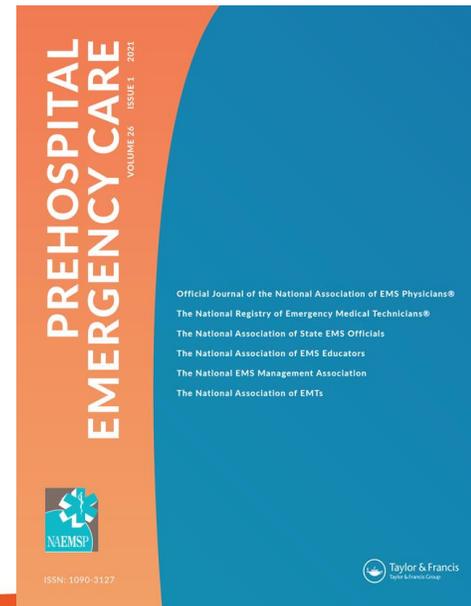
OCTOBER 18-21 | DENVER, CO

International Association of Chiefs of Police

Culminated in a joint position statement

A mission statement was agreed upon to guide the discussions:.

To promote collaboration among LE, EMS, and Fire at multidisciplinary scenes and foster a team understanding of the roles, responsibilities and training of all disciplines to maximize the health and safety of all community members and public safety professionals.



First: some fundamental beliefs

- Acute behavioral emergencies (ABE) are often a marker of system cohesiveness because optimal management of these volatile situations requires:
 - Rehearsed and coordinated effort among Police, EMS, and Fire
 - Shared responsibility – takes effort to become reality
 - Protects patient, public, responders

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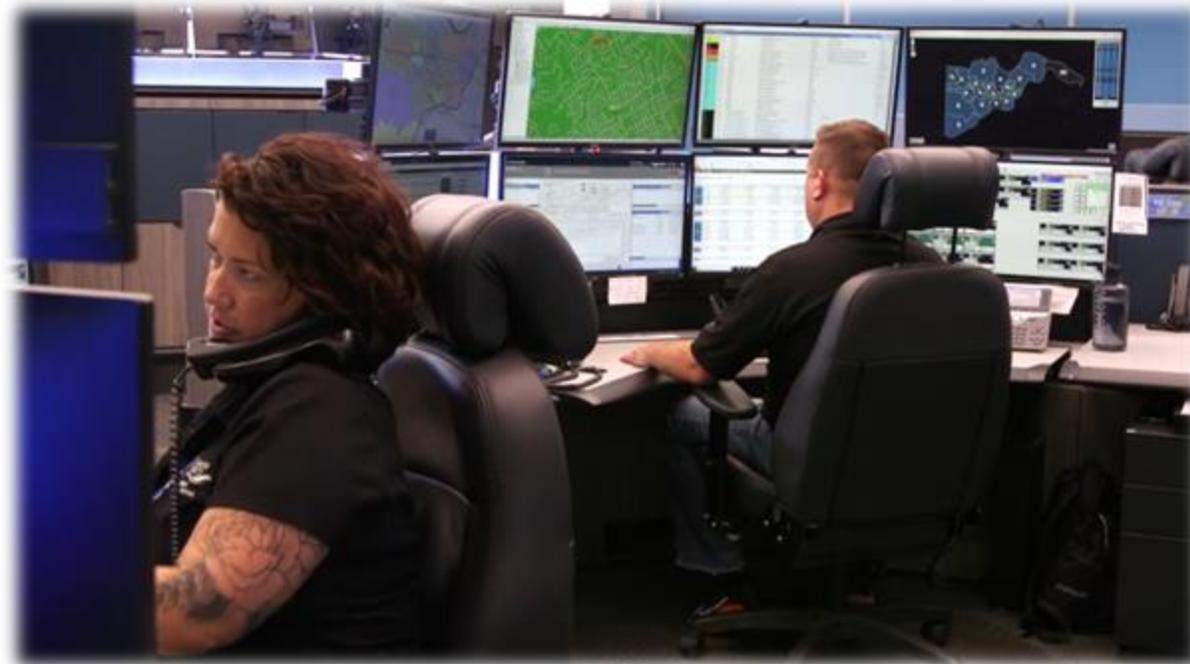
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 - Rehearsal and coordination among police, EMS, and fire
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Sound familiar?



Key Recommendations

- Specific protocols must address the EMS/LE interface → this needs to include your Dispatch or Emergency Communications Center (ECC)



Key Recommendations

- Training must also be unified and consistent
 - Small unit tactics: threat assessment and de-escalation
 - Who communicates with the patient? When? How?
 - Self-preservation
 - Independent assessment is not an insult but a strategy against anchoring bias, premature diagnostic closure, and other cognitive errors

Key Recommendations

- Engaged medical oversight
 - Acknowledge competing priorities of LE and EMS in conjoint education and training sessions
 - Specific protocols for physical/medical restraint
 - Medically-directed needs assessment with supporting protocols
 - Criteria for automatic reviews; internal and multi-agency



Key Recommendations

- Regular interagency training
 - Culture change does not happen by itself – must be cultivated



Evolution of the EMS/Police Relationship

- Routinely interfacing with LE benefits your EMS System on many more levels *beyond ABE*



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Physicians as Officers

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Jeff Metzger, M.D.

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Evolution of the EMS/Police Relationship

- The EMS Physician is uniquely poised to “glue” the stakeholders together in support and advocacy of our patients



Evolution of the EMS/Police Relationship

- If you happen to be (or plan to become) a LE physician/medical director:
 - Profound potential to impact care and influence patient outcomes
 - Improve the health and well-being of First Responders in the entire system itself



Evolution of the EMS/Police Relationship

- We must be the **medical conscience for the system** as a whole (not merely our agency alone) → seeing issues from both perspectives of EMS and LE
- This cannot happen without first spending time and energy *building the relationships first*



Evolution of the EMS/Police Relationship



Building a unified response: Best practices and a checklist for managing acute behavioral emergencies

An explainer and action plan based on the Consensus Statement of NAEMSP, IAFF and IACP

December 04, 2024 11:34 AM • Rob Lawrence

Balancing care and collaboration: Key lessons from EMS and law enforcement interactions

Real-world case studies from EMS Lawyer Doug Wolfberg reveal critical takeaways for EMS providers working alongside law enforcement



Thank You!



swatdoc911

#naemsp2026



papatan911