

March 29, 2021

## **Emergency Medical Assistants (EMA) Licensing Board Guideline**

**UPDATED: Utilizing “bystanders” while providing Emergency Health Services**

### **Definitions:**

In this guideline:

“EMA” means an Emergency Medical Assistant licensed by the Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board.

“Scene command,” for the purposes of this guideline, means the responsibility for all emergency health services activities at a particular scene, including the development of strategies, tactics and the use of human and physical resources.

“Police officer” means an individual who is an officer of a duly authorized law enforcement agency.

“Bystander” means any individual who is present at an event or incident by happenstance. *An off-duty EMA or professional responder would be considered a bystander if their presence at the scene were due to happenstance.*

### **Guideline Statement:**

EMAs that are first to arrive on the scene of an emergency may utilize the non-EMA human resources available at the scene, if required, until additional EMAs and/or higher level of care providers arrive. This guideline is applicable ONLY for the duration of when patient medical needs exceed what the available number of licensed EMAs on scene can provide.

The EMA responsible for providing scene command may direct anyone, whether it be a police officer, a bystander, or any other unlicensed member of an emergency health services organization, to perform a non-invasive emergency medical service such as chest compressions, stabilizing the cervical spine, etc. Scene command should be assumed by the EMA with the highest license level present at the scene and transferred when a higher level of care provider arrives.

It is the responsibility of the EMA providing scene command to ensure those individuals they are directing are doing the assigned task properly and safely. The EMA providing scene command is ultimately responsible for the scene, the patient’s wellbeing, the safety of all care providers as

well as any care provided by those being directed by the EMA. Consequently, the EMA with scene command is responsible for all emergency medical services provided by any person(s) the EMA is directing.

It is incumbent on the scene command EMA to document the use of non-EMA resources for the provision of emergency health services on the Patient Care Record.

It is also important to note that that **no EMA** may work outside of their legal scope of practice and may not direct anyone to do so either.

The utilization of non-licensed responders for a medical incident should not be a routine or standard response practice for an organization providing emergency health services, ambulance services, or ancillary health services. Such organizations should aim to ensure that sufficient actively licensed EMAs are deployed as a response to an emergency medical incident.

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