April 28, 2020

**Emergency Medical Assistants (EMA) Licensing Board Policy Statement**

Utilizing “bystanders” while providing Emergency Health Services

EMAs that are first to arrive on the scene of an emergency may utilize the non-EMA resources available at the scene, if required, until additional EMAs and/or higher level of care providers arrive.

The EMA responsible for providing “scene command” may direct anyone, whether it be a police officer, a bystander, or any other unlicensed individual, 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 “scene command” EMA 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 no EMA may work outside of their legal scope of practice and may not direct anyone to do so either.

Sincerely,

Philip Yoon, MD, MBA, CCFP(EM), FCFP  
Acting Chair  
Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board

Grant Ross, Critical Care Paramedic (CCP)  
Member  
Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board