



## How Safe *Is* Your Scene?

How safe is your scene? Here are a few recent reports from around the US. At what point did these EMS providers have an opportunity to check for scene safety?

With the NAEMT releasing a study of 52% of injuries in EMS coming from assault, it is obvious EMS providers are assaulted on scenes they *thought* were safe.

- A paramedic was sitting on the back of his ambulance in a bowling alley parking lot when police say a man walked out from a bar, drunk and stumbling. The man approached the paramedic grabbed the paramedic in the groin, twice, and offered sexual acts.
- Bullitt County authorities are searching for two men they say attacked an EMT. Two guys opened the side doors of the vehicle and dragged her outside, yelling and screaming for morphine. She has a dislocated jaw, broken ribs, a concussion and knife cuts on her arm.
- In Portsmouth six police officers subdued a suicidal man who allegedly held a knife to a paramedic's throat at Portsmouth Regional Hospital this morning.

## Defensive Tactics for Emergency Medical Services

- A Carlisle man is facing an assault charge after state police said he attacked two emergency medical technicians as they were treating him in an ambulance in Cumberland County's South Middleton Twp. Police said the man became irate and combative when the technicians cut his shirt while in the ambulance.
- Two men went on a rampage Friday, smashing vehicles with baseball bats, attacking firefighters and paramedics and slugging a woman on the street.

What about the female medic shot while assisting the intoxicated man out of a vehicle a couple of months ago? Remember the female medic in Chicago that received a smashed face from a pipe? What about the female medic that was stabbed numerous times in the abdomen while at the ambulance base? How about the female medic thrown from the back of a moving ambulance by an intoxicated male being transported after an MVC?

The point is..... while on duty, in EMS there is no such thing as a safe scene.

Visit the [www.dt4ems.net/forums](http://www.dt4ems.net/forums) for updated links to news of EMS attacked in the field.