



Table Top Training Drills

Table Top Training Exercise-July 2011

Scene Safety

Scene safety should be a top priority when responding to calls whether it is day or night, on the roadway or in a residence. Taking care of ourselves and our co-workers is vitally important in the quest to return home at the end of the call. Sometimes we are called to a scene that may be violent in nature or the patient is experiencing a medical emergency that renders them combative. Being prepared for the unknown might be the difference in going home or going to the hospital. In near-miss report [06-143](#) units respond to an EMS call for a possible drug overdose.

The excerpt is as follows; "We were called to a home by family members to a 17 year old male, possible drug use/overdose. Upon our arrival, we found a combative patient, approximately 275lbs. During the course of our assessment, the patient became violent. We retreated outside and tried to obtain an ETA for the sheriff. No ETA was given and they were unable to contact the sheriff unit dispatched at that time. The patient then obtained 2 kitchen cooking knives. The father rushed back inside the house and began to fight with his son. Engine, Squad and Ambulance rushed back to rescue the patient's father. The patient then came at FD personnel with knives. After a violent struggle, patient was restrained on the front porch/lawn area. No injuries to any parties as sheriff units arrived. Our squad followed up with sheriff escort to the hospital to seek medical attention. After speaking with my crew, all with high levels of experience, we all felt very lucky to have come out of this incident uninjured or much worse."

EMT and Police Officer Eric Dickinson from Iowa wrote an article for JEMS Magazine that states; "There will always be the potential for violence against EMS providers. In fact, you may have already experienced it. But don't become complacent simply because you've responded to hundreds of calls and nothing like this has ever happened. Decide whether you'll be a victim or if you'll respond with intensity, determination and resolve to protect yourself and escape. Commit yourself to the idea that, if attacked, you won't give up." To review the full article, visit <http://www.jems.com/article/health-and-safety/survive-your-next-shift-tactic>