

# **Wisconsin EMS Association**

## **Concealed Carry Law**

### *Position Statement - October 2011*

Wisconsin's Concealed - Carry Law, which will take effect November 1, 2011, permits individuals to obtain a license to carry a concealed weapon in Wisconsin. While the possibility of finding a dangerous weapon on a scene has always existed, EMS personnel must be aware of the impact this law may have upon them while performing their duties. These dangers may present in many different ways regardless of jurisdiction or call volume. Therefore, the following rules should always apply:

- Assume all weapons are loaded
- Always point the weapon in a safe direction, and never place your fingers near the trigger or inside the trigger guard of any weapon
- Never attempt to unload or engage the safety of an unfamiliar weapon

In order to aid EMS services in the state of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin EMS Association has adopted the following position statement:

1. All emergency medical service agencies should draft, implement, and enforce a policy regarding patients with concealed weapons. Each service will need to tailor its policy in accordance with area protocols under which they operate. It is imperative that each service talk to all law enforcement agencies they may interact with as well as all area hospitals, and conform the policy to what local law enforcement and hospitals are willing and able to do. Discuss and share the final policy with hospitals, neighboring services, and law enforcement so they know what to expect.
2. Upon arrival at the scene, EMS personnel should ask the patient if they have a weapon prior to performing a physical assessment. If the patient is unable to answer, proceed with caution. If a weapon is found, law enforcement should be contacted and if available take possession of the weapon. If law enforcement is not available or unwilling to take possession of the weapon, secure the weapon per policy. No patient, other than a conscious and alert law enforcement officer, should be transported in the ambulance with a weapon.
3. An arriving EMS crew may retreat from a scene until secured by law enforcement if the scene is unsafe due to the presence of weapons. The crew will return and render care when the scene is made safe.
4. If a weapon is found in a holster, the weapon should remain in the holster while it is secured per policy.
5. If a weapon is located while a patient is being transported, secure the weapon per policy and contact law enforcement or hospital security to take possession of the weapon upon arrival.
6. When a weapon is encountered on a call, the patient care report should include documentation that a weapon was located, what type of weapon it was, where it was located, how it was recovered, what the disposition of the weapon was, and any actions or comments made by the patient regarding the weapon.