

June 14, 2020

To: ALL EMS Agencies

Over the last several weeks, we have seen many demonstrations that were peaceful and well organized. EMS agencies across the state have worked to ensure the safety of our personnel, citizens, and those who have come to our towns and cities to peacefully demonstrate. Unfortunately, we are still seeing pockets of civil unrest, where the health and safety of our responding personnel may become threatened. As we have seen, civil unrest and rioting can occur anywhere, so we are asking your agency to consider the following:

- All personnel should maintain a high level of situational awareness - stay vigilant and communicate any changes to supervisory or command personnel.
- Agency leadership should coordinate with local Law Enforcement Officials and EMA's to:
 - Develop engagement/disengagement strategies to ensure the safety of your personnel, as well as the citizens of your community.
 - Develop benchmarks for when law enforcement will be needed to escort personnel responding to an incident.
 - Develop flexible transport policies depending on conditions around or on the route to the receiving health care facility.
 - Develop a strategy for personnel if they are caught in a spontaneous demonstration or civil unrest.
 - Coordinate with dispatch centers to develop a procedure for notification if a unit is dispatched to a demonstrator or an officer.
- Work with the local health care facilities to determine:
 - Notification process, especially in cases where security measures are needed to protect the patient and staff, and
 - If an alternative location will be necessary to receive the patient (a demonstrator or law enforcement officer).

Please let our office know if there is anything that your agency needs and be sure to keep the lines of communication open. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

David Newton

Georgia Office of EMS and Trauma