


THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE   
INSTITUTE for PUBLIC SERVICE  
MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE

Chief Smokey Sparks  
Anytown Fire Department  
123 Main Street  
Firesafe, Tennessee 1234-5678

April 4, 2013

Dear Chief Sparks,

You asked for guidelines on how your fire department might address a situation where a person carrying a dangerous weapon, such as a firearm, requires medical treatment and/or transport. Your concern is the increasing likelihood that fire department personnel will encounter a person with a handgun permit carrying a firearm and you want to ensure that fire personnel have guidelines to follow to establish and maintain scene safety for everyone involved.

I have attached a draft policy that addresses your concerns. Ideally, fire department personnel should not handle or accept custody of a patient's weapon. It is not possible to foresee every situation, and some medical situations are critical and require the provision of care and/or transport before law enforcement arrives. The attached sample policy provides guidelines for fire department personnel.

The sample policy is a template. Adjust the provisions of the policy to meet local needs but do not adjust any portion of the policy that would result in a violation of state or federal law.

Before adopting a policy on securing dangerous weapons, consult with local law enforcement leaders on the contents of the policy to confirm that the fire department policy dovetails with any law enforcement policies.

Sincerely,

*Dennis Wolf*

Dennis Wolf  
Fire Management Consultant  
UT-MTAS