



SENECA COUNTY

Emergency Services



Standard Administrative Guideline

Subject: EMS Scene Photography

Reference Number: 39

Effective Date: May 1st, 2009

Revision Date: Review Annually, 2/2020

Purpose:

To outline the process of photographing EMS scenes and the use of the pictures

Background:

EMS and Accident Scene photographs are widely used throughout Fire/EMS for training and documentation of mechanism of injury.

The use of digital photography provides a fast, efficient, and secure means of documentation. Cell phone camera use is prohibited due to the unsecure nature of cell phone communication, and the possibility of inadvertent transmission.

Policy & Procedure:

1. EMS crew members may take pictures of EMS scenes for purposes of training and documentation of mechanism of injury for the receiving hospital.
2. The pictures must be taken with a Seneca County EMS approved camera.
3. Any photograph taken by a cell phone or other non-approved EMS camera shall be subjected to immediate seizure by any other authorized EMS personnel.
4. All photographic documentation shall be used for the intended purpose listed above ONLY.
5. No pictures shall be uploaded to the internet by any means.
6. Avoid taking pictures of the patient if at all possible. If the patient cannot be avoided then avoid taking face pictures as to NOT identify the patient (HIPAA).
7. No person shall transmit, display, sell, or publish in any manner any photograph. Violations of this policy may subject you to discipline in accordance with Seneca County EMS Discipline Policy. It may also subject you to civil and administrative penalties (including monetary damages) for violation of the patient's privacy as set forth in state and federal laws, including but not limited to HIPAA.
8. It is the duty of all Seneca County EMS members to report violation of this guideline following the standard chain of command or directly to the SCEMS office if necessary.

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