



Virginia Beach Department of Emergency Medical Services



**OPERATIONS**

**WEAPONS POLICY**

**PURPOSE:** To outline those specific occasions when EMS personnel will be allowed to clean, carry, or utilize any type of firearm or other weapon.

**APPLICABILITY:** This policy shall apply to all personnel while in the official capacity, as a member of the Department of EMS

**POLICY STATEMENT:** The purpose of this policy is to help reduce the risk of violence by preventing the unauthorized possession, brandishing, or use of weapons by members engaged in official functions of the Department.

**CITYWIDE STANDARD**

With exceptions noted below, all members will comply with City of Virginia Beach Department of Human Resources Policy 6.18 (Weapons Policy).

**OFFICIAL EXEMPTIONS**

- A. Small personal pocketknives or large “buck” type knives, which are worn in a visible holster on the belt and utilized for necessary cutting (ie: seat belts) are acceptable.
- B. Authorized EMS personnel, while on “active” duty or training with the Virginia Beach Police Special Operations Team, are exempted from the Weapons Policy for the duration of the mission or length of training.
- C. Off duty EMS personnel who are Commonwealth of Virginia or Federal sworn peace officers.

ORDERED:



1/23/2017

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EMS Chief

Date