

# Violence is Never Okay

## Violence should never be accepted as “part of the job.”

While sadly common in EMS, workplace violence can seriously harm your physical and mental health. Workplace violence is defined as any violent act (including physical assaults and threats of assaults) directed toward persons on duty.



### Preventing and Responding to Workplace Violence:

#### ✓ Be Situationally Aware

Practice scene safety, look for signs to identify any potential dangerous situations. If you are uncertain of a scene’s safety, leave and call law enforcement for help.

#### ✓ Verbally De-escalate

Avoid actions that escalate a situation, have a calm and caring attitude, do not match threats, do not give orders and acknowledge the person’s feelings.

#### ✓ Report Violence

Know your agency’s policies for reporting workplace violence. Use the Line of Duty Injury form in patient care reports and the EMS Voluntary Event Notification Tool.

#### ✓ Know Your Rights

Virginia Law dictates that any person who commits an assault or an assault and battery against an EMS provider may be charged with a Class 6 Felony.

### Signs of a Potentially Violent Patient

- Verbally expressed anger and frustration
- Threatening gestures and body language
- Signs of drug or alcohol use
- Presence of a weapon



## Remember!

**You do not have to stay on a scene if you feel it is unsafe.**

**Remove yourself from the situation and call law enforcement for help.**