



## Section 1: Administrative / Medical Control

### GUIDELINE/PROCEDURES: CONCEALED WEAPONS GUIDELINES

While the possibility of finding a dangerous weapon on a scene has always existed, EMS personnel must be aware of current issues, which impose unique hazards upon them while performing their duties. These dangers present in many different ways, regardless of jurisdiction or call volume. Though not all accidents can be prevented, awareness must be made regarding the State of Ohio Concealed - Carry Laws.

Ohio's Concealed - Carry Law permits individuals to obtain a license to carry a concealed handgun in Ohio, including into private businesses if the licensee also carries a valid license and valid identification when carrying the concealed handgun. This law has been in effect since April 8th, 2004. Be aware that all patients may be carrying a dangerous weapon at all times, regardless of whether a permit has or has not been issued.

#### GUIDELINES

- Upon arrival at the scene, EMS personnel should directly ask patients if they are carrying a weapon prior to performing a physical assessment. If the patient is unable to answer, please proceed with caution.
- If a weapon is present on scene or with a patient, it is recommended that a Law Enforcement official be present to secure the weapon.
- The training of EMS personnel in the safe handling and use of firearms lock boxes in squads is a departmental and municipal decision.
- Caution is advised due to the many types of weapons and the handler's ability to modify them.
- When transporting a patient to the hospital, please inform the receiving facility that a weapon has been found on the patient. This will allow enough time for Security to safely secure the weapon and maintain possession of it until Law Enforcement arrives.

*Example of a Standard Warning Sign*

