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MEMORANDUM #2013-07

TO: All EMS Providers

FROM: Office of the Medical Director  
Saginaw Valley Medical Control Authority (SVMCA)

SUBJECT: Marking of Vehicles Involved in Accidents

Effective immediately, the Saginaw County Sheriff Department, Michigan State Police, and first responders throughout Saginaw County will begin the practice of marking accident vehicles which have been cleared of injuries or abandoned with yellow caution/crime scene tape. A small section of tape will be placed on the vehicle in a conspicuous area that can be easily seen by EMS personnel (on the antenna or side mirror). This practice will hopefully have the following benefits:

- Responders will not have to continuously recheck vehicles that have been cleared earlier by other responders. This becomes extremely important during times where multiple accidents are occurring on a stretch of highway and multiple agencies are responding.
- Central dispatch will reduce the number of reactivations because they can ask a caller whether the vehicle has been tagged with tape.

The idea of marking “cleared” vehicles with yellow caution/crime scene tape came from a recent review of the ice related accidents on I-75 where there were many scenes in close proximity. It was noted that more than one ambulance would stop and check a vehicle that had already been cleared by another agency. This ultimately resulted in delays and confusion for everyone.



Going forward, consider a vehicle that has been marked with yellow caution tape to be “clear” of any patients and thus requiring no additional action by EMS. If dispatched to the area, suspect that your accident is further away.

Handwritten signature of Noel Wagner in black ink.

Noel Wagner, MD NREMT-P  
Medical Director, SVMCA

Handwritten signature of Eric Snidersich in black ink.

Eric Snidersich, BS EMT-P  
EMS Manager, SVMCA