



Position Statement

TEMS Medical Direction

The International Public Safety Association (IPSA) supports the involvement and participation of Physician Medical Director(s) who are responsible for oversight, evaluating and ensuring the quality of casualty care provided by tactical medical providers.

Tactical Emergency Medical Support or Services (TEMS) is a broad term referring to provisions of preventative, urgent and emergent out-of-hospital care within the context of civilian law enforcement operations. Practically speaking, it can range from “support” of law enforcement operations, all the way to the integration of advanced care providers, working closely or embedded with special operations police forces, providing point-of-injury, on-scene, comprehensive emergency medical services.

Regardless of the scope, the IPSA supports that TEMS programs have appropriately credentialed and experienced medical oversight, reflecting the growing body of knowledge and sophistication in risk mitigation and emergency response in high-threat and austere environments, and the establishment of Tactical Medicine as a bona fide subspecialty of medicine in recent years.

The goal of comprehensive TEMS programs is to provide preventative occupational health services, urgent and emergent operational medical services, allowing for the broader goals of treating casualties, preventing further casualties and assisting tactical teams in remaining focused, engaged and to complete their mission.

Adopted April 19, 2019.