STREETWISE

INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING
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Eight Assaults on Fire/EMS Crews; Ohio's 15-Foot Law Takes Effect

A monthly review of violence against Fire/EMS crews, compiled from open-source reporting.

BOTTOM LINE

Open-source reporting turned up eight assaults on U.S. Fire/EMS crews in October: seven on EMS providers and one driver who allegedly sped at a firefighter. Five of the seven EMS assaults involved someone police had already stopped, detained or arrested. Three happened at the hospital, after transport. Ohio's new 15-foot buffer law took effect Oct. 6.

BY THE NUMBERS

8 assaults on U.S. Fire/EMS crews this month: 7 on EMS providers, 1 vehicle attack on a firefighter

5 of the 7 EMS assaults involved someone police had already stopped, detained or arrested

3 happened at the hospital, after the crew delivered the patient

7 court cases and bills we are following: 1 new law in effect, 1 changed status

01 INCIDENT WATCH

8 INCIDENTS

WHERE THE VIOLENCE BEGAN

2 Assessment on scene | **2** During transport | **3** At the hospital | **1** Vehicle as weapon

OCT. 1 · VEHICLE
Sterling Heights, Michigan

Driver allegedly sped through a parking lot at firefighters on a downed-wires call, nearly hitting one.

OCT. 6 · ASSESSMENT ON SCENE
Wake Forest, North Carolina

Intoxicated man police found blocking traffic after a restaurant assault allegedly kicked a Wake County paramedic.

OCT. 6 · ASSESSMENT ON SCENE
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Severely intoxicated passenger fought police at a traffic stop, then assaulted responding Bethlehem paramedics, injuring one.

OCT. 14 · AT THE HOSPITAL
Leesburg, Florida

Man revived with Narcan in a deputy's custody allegedly shoved a paramedic in the chest at the hospital.

OCT. 15 · DURING TRANSPORT
Pottsville, Pennsylvania

Man taken from state police custody for a mental health evaluation allegedly kicked an EMT in the chest and lunged during transport.

OCT. 22 · AT THE HOSPITAL
Rensselaer, New York

Man arrested for allegedly stabbing a relative assaulted an EMT while being evaluated at the hospital.

REP. OCT. 27 · AT THE HOSPITAL
Rome, Georgia

Man attacking medical staff at the hospital allegedly tried to strangle an EMT by his shirt collar, then kicked an officer in the face.

OCT. 28 · DURING TRANSPORT
Brunswick, New York

Patient allegedly kicked and struck two EMS providers during treatment and transport, injuring both.

02 LEGAL TRACKER

LINKS GO TO THE OFFICIAL RECORD

MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS	**People v. Nordstrom** ↗ No. 375550 (published) A criminal appeal by a man charged with biting a paramedic, arguing he was entitled to resist because the police stop that preceded it was unlawful.	RULING ISSUED
MASSACHUSETTS	**Workplace-violence legislation** ↗ H.4767 / S.3171 Two companion bills, one in the Massachusetts House and one in the Senate, that would extend workplace-violence protections and supports to EMS personnel.	IN CONFERENCE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT, N.D. OHIO	**Aulizio v. Whitehouse** ↗ No. 4:24-cv-01646 A federal civil-rights lawsuit brought against an EMT over emergency medical care given to a patient who refused it.	DECIDED
MINNESOTA	**Enhanced EMS assault protection** ↗ 2026 Session Law Ch. 118 A state law raising the criminal penalties for assaulting firefighters and emergency medical personnel.	IN EFFECT
DELAWARE	**First responder protection bill** ↗ SS 1 for SB 284 A bill creating a criminal offense for interfering with first responders who are working a scene.	DIED
OHIO	**15-foot buffer around emergency service responders** ↗ H.B. 20 (136th General Assembly) A state law making it a crime to stay within 15 feet of an emergency service responder, after a warning, while interfering with their work or threatening them.	IN EFFECT
FEDERAL · 119TH CONGRESS	**Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act** ↗ H.R. 2531 / S. 1232 Companion House and Senate bills that would require OSHA to issue an enforceable federal workplace-violence prevention standard.	IN COMMITTEE

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SOURCES

WDIV ClickOnDetroit (Oct. 6) and Macomb County Prosecutor's Office (Sterling Heights); Town of Wake Forest, WRAL and CBS 17 (Oct. 6) (Wake Forest); Lehigh University Police Weekly Ledger (Oct. 12) (Bethlehem); Leesburg-News.com (Oct. 17) (Leesburg); The Republican & Herald via EMS1 (Oct. 26) (Pottsville); Newport Dispatch (Oct. 23) and WNYT (Rensselaer); WRGA and Coosa Valley News (Oct. 27) (Rome); WNYT (Oct. 30), CBS6 Albany and WGNA (Nov. 2) (Brunswick); Ohio General Assembly, H.B. 20 (136th General Assembly) and Ohio Judicial Conference H.B. 20 enactment summary; Spectrum News Ohio (July 8) and WHIO (July 8) (H.B. 20 signing and Springfield context); Delaware General Assembly (SS 1 for SB 284); Massachusetts General Court, H.4767 bill history and Sept. 3 conference committee record; State House News Service (Sept. 3); Michigan Court of Appeals (People v. Nordstrom); Minnesota Revisor of Statutes (2026 Session Law Ch. 118); Congress.gov (H.R. 2531 / S. 1232); Aulizio v. Whitehouse, No. 4:24-cv-01646 (N.D. Ohio).