



Two Boston EMS Assaults, Vehicle Used as a Weapon & More

A monthly review of violence against Fire/EMS crews, compiled from public reporting.

BOTTOM LINE

September's violence arrived after crews were committed: during assessment, loading and transport. Nine U.S. incidents this month, four of them inside the ambulance. Boston EMS had two providers assaulted within hours for the second month running, and in Miami-Dade, investigators allege a driver intentionally accelerated into a firefighter at a crash scene, striking him in the legs and knocking him backward several feet.

BY THE NUMBERS

9 assaults on Fire/EMS crews found in public reporting this month

4 happened inside the ambulance during transport

2 Boston EMS providers assaulted within hours of each other, at Logan Airport and Andrew Station

6 court cases and bills we are following: 1 new this month, 2 changed status

01 INCIDENT WATCH

9 INCIDENTS

WHERE THE VIOLENCE BEGAN

4 During transport

2 Loading / movement

2 Assessment on scene

1 Vehicle as weapon

SEPT. 8 · DURING TRANSPORT York, Pennsylvania	Patient escalated in stages during transport, then allegedly punched an EMT. TAKEAWAY The escalation came in visible stages. Each stage was a chance to reassess position, distance and the need for help before the strike.
SEPT. 11 · LOADING / MOVEMENT Seattle, Washington	AMR EMT assaulted while loading a woman arrested after a barricade. TAKEAWAY A patient coming out of a police arrest is still in that fight. Loading is where the crew takes over physical contact, so agree with police who holds what before the move.
SEPT. 12 · ASSESSMENT ON SCENE Gainesville, Florida	Man cycling between calm and agitation tackled a paramedic with police on scene. TAKEAWAY Police on scene did not prevent the assault. Cycling between calm and agitation is a warning sign in itself.
SEPT. 13 · DURING TRANSPORT Bellerose, Queens, New York	Patient allegedly punched a Northwell EMT in the head repeatedly during transport. TAKEAWAY Age is not a risk filter: a 65-year-old patient struck repeatedly at head height. In the patient compartment, seat position and an arm's-length gap are the only protection; set them before the doors close.
SEPT. 16 · ASSESSMENT ON SCENE Boston, Massachusetts	Two Boston EMS providers assaulted within hours, the second paired assault in two months. TAKEAWAY Second straight month of paired Boston EMS assaults, after Caribbean Carnival and Roxbury in August.
SEPT. 17 · VEHICLE Miami-Dade County, Florida	Investigators allege a driver intentionally struck a firefighter directing traffic at a crash scene, then shoved him before leaving. He was later arrested, charged with aggravated battery on a firefighter with a deadly weapon. TAKEAWAY Apparatus placement, barriers and where responders stand relative to moving vehicles belong in threat assessment, not only traffic safety.
SEPT. 19 · LOADING / MOVEMENT Beaver Stadium, Pennsylvania	Provider reportedly bitten while removing a combative person at a large event. TAKEAWAY A stair-chair removal puts hands within reach of the patient's mouth and feet. Agree on roles and holds before the lift, not during it.
SEPT. 20 · DURING TRANSPORT Pine Bluff, Arkansas	Combative patient allegedly elbowed and struck a provider in the ambulance. TAKEAWAY In the patient compartment, distance is measured in inches and exits are limited.
SEPT. 21 · DURING TRANSPORT Louisville, Kentucky	Patient allegedly unbuckled his harness and tackled an EMS worker during transport. TAKEAWAY Restraints and harnesses are not a barrier. Recheck them, and keep watching hands and position, as transport goes on.

THE PATTERN

Most September events began as patient care, not as recognized violent scenes. Loading, transport and movement of combative patients account for six of the nine incidents.

02 OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

01 VIOLENCE DURING PATIENT CARE
Most September incidents occurred during assessment, loading, movement or transport, not on calls first recognized as violent.

02 BEHAVIOR CHANGE IS OPERATIONAL INFORMATION
Resistance to assessment, verbal escalation, repeated demands and cycling between calm and agitation (York, Gainesville) justify reassessment before the crew becomes more committed.

03 THE AMBULANCE IS A CONFINED ENVIRONMENT
Close proximity, limited exits, equipment within reach and divided attention raise vulnerability during loading and transport (Pine Bluff, Seattle, Bellerose, Louisville).

04 TRANSITION POINTS REDUCE OPTIONS
Doorways, loading, steps, scene-to-ambulance movement and hospital handoff are where options shrink. Know the way out before the moment most likely to escalate.

05 VEHICLES ARE THREATS
Miami-Dade reinforces attention to apparatus placement, vehicle movement, barriers, escape routes and responder positioning.

06 REPEAT ASSAULTS ARE A SIGNAL
Two paired assaults in two months within one system, as in Boston, warrant a review of staging, call types and reporting.

03 LEGAL TRACKER

LINKS GO TO THE OFFICIAL RECORD

MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS	People v. Nordstrom ↗ No. 375550 (published)	RULING ISSUED
MASSACHUSETTS	Workplace-violence legislation ↗ H.4767 / S.3171	IN CONFERENCE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT, N.D. OHIO	Aulizio v. Whitehouse ↗ No. 4:24-cv-01646	DECIDED
MINNESOTA	Enhanced EMS assault protection ↗ 2026 Session Law Ch. 118	IN EFFECT
DELAWARE	First responder protection bill ↗ SS 1 for SB 284	OUT OF COMMITTEE
FEDERAL · 119TH CONGRESS	Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act ↗ H.R. 2531 / S. 1232	IN COMMITTEE



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SOURCING

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SOURCES

People v. Nordstrom, No. 375550 (Mich. Ct. App. May 26, 2026); Massachusetts General Court, H.4767 bill history; Alachua Chronicle / University of Florida Police Department (Gainesville); NBC Boston (Sept. 16), WHDH (Sept. 17), Boston.com and EMS1 (Boston Logan and Andrew Station); Deltaplex News (Pine Bluff); Seattle Police Department SPD Blotter (Sept. 14) (Seattle); StateCollege.com (Sept. 21) and The Daily Collegian (Beaver Stadium); Louisville Courier Journal and WDRB, via Hoodline (Louisville); WGAL (York); QNS (Sept. 2026) (Bellerose); NBC 6 South Florida (Sept. 22) (Miami-Dade); WFMJ and WKBN (2024) (Aulizio v. Whitehouse background); Minnesota Revisor of Statutes (2026 Session Law Ch. 118); Delaware General Assembly (SS 1 for SB 284); Congress.gov (H.R. 2531 / S. 1232).

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