President Signs Extension of Ryan White Act

Recently, President Obama signed a law extending provisions of the Ryan White Act. This federal law protects volunteer emergency responders by establishing notification requirements when responders may have been exposed to infectious diseases.

Under the new provisions of the law, if a medical facility determines that a patient has an infectious disease, then the medical facility must notify the emergency responder who transported the patient within 48 hours. This notification would be done through the emergency response organization's designated officer. Also, the new law allows emergency responders (through the designated officer) to request a determination as to whether a patient they have treated has an infectious disease.