New York EMTs may get let off the hook for watching over dead patients

Ambulances that could be responding to emergencies sit idle as EMTs wait up to four hours for cops to arrive, the News has found. EMTs are required to stick with deceased patients — even if they died of natural causes — until paperwork is handed off to cops.

BY BARRY PADDOCK / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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FDNY Commissioner Salvatore Cassano says, "We are working with the police department and the medical examiner to try to shorten the process' so that EMTs don't have to wait too long with deceased patients."

FDNY Commissioner Salvatore Cassano is looking for ways to stop Emergency Medical Service technicians from getting stuck for hours watching over bodies of dead patients and waiting for the NYPD to arrive.
"It does cause us to remain on the scene longer than we'd like," Cassano said Monday. "We are working with the police department and the medical examiner to try to shorten the process."

Ambulances that could be responding to emergencies sit idle as EMTs wait up to four hours for cops to arrive, the News reported Monday.

EMTs are required to stick with deceased patients — even if they died of natural causes — until paperwork is handed off to cops.

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One solution being considered would allow EMTs to give the forms to family members instead and let the relatives wait around for the NYPD.

“The police department’s very busy also, and we understand that," Cassano said.

Any change in procedure would require state approval, Cassano said.

“It’s a procedure and a regulation — and we’re looking to see if that can be changed," he said.

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