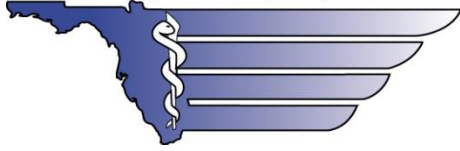


Florida College of Emergency Physicians



A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS
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FCEP POLICY OF OPPOSING FRAGMENTATION OF EMS SYSTEMS

December 17, 2009

The Florida College of Emergency Physicians (FCEP) is supportive of efforts to improve emergency care at all levels. An effective EMS system is essential to any public safety plan and is integral to the mitigation and response to the medical consequences of a disaster or other public health crisis, whether natural or man-made.

Fragmentation of a currently effective EMS system may degrade a community's ability to effectively respond to ordinary and extraordinary medical needs within their EMS service area. As such, the Florida College of Emergency Physicians urges good faith deliberations and community consultation when significant changes to the structure of an existing EMS system are contemplated.