Human Trafficking
Why Should you Care

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Human Tracking

• Why do you need to be aware of this problem?

• Fire and EMS are one of the very few types of departments that are welcomed into homes, and all types of businesses.
False Promises

• This is very prevalent in areas with national borders but is not solely based upon the movement across borders or illegal transportation.

• Many of the victims are lured from their homes with false promises: well being, well paying jobs, and bright new beginning.
False Promises

- Traffickers prey on those who are in need and initially assist those who have fallen through the cracks.
- Know that human trafficking is often “hidden in plain sight.”
Labor Trafficking

• Being paid less than promised or pay withheld.
• Threatened with violence or otherwise demoralized.
• Forced to work more hours than advertised.
• Movements to and from work controlled.
• Forced to live at the work site.
WAIT A MINUTE...
Improve your “Spider Sense”
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• There may be small rooms throughout the residence that have locks on the outside of the doors.

• Locks may be on many/all of the windows that keep people from coming in AND getting out
Improve your “Spider Sense”

• Tattoos found on the body may serve as a “brand” that the victim belongs to a certain trafficker

• Drug abuse related health issues such as asthma,

• Skin infections

• Somatic signs such as headaches, back pain, stomach pain

• Malnutrition and poor diet
When a Child is Involved

• Child Trafficking can take a variety of forms, including commercial sexual exploitation (prostitution) or forced labor.

• Those who recruit minors for the purpose of commercial sex are violating U.S. anti-trafficking laws, even if no force, fraud, or coercion was involved.
Sex Trafficking

• Each year, as many as 100,000 – 300,000 American children are at risk of being trafficked for commercial sex in the United States?

• The average age a girl enters the commercial sex trade is 12 -14 years old. For boys it is even younger – just 11-13 years old.

Sources: U.S. Department of Justice, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
A Plan

• Transport the patient alone, do not allow their companion to come with them.

• Share your concerns privately with other emergency responders and the emergency department staff.

• If the patient is younger than 18, EMS providers are mandated to report any concerns about trafficking to police and Child Protective Services.

• Ask your Medical Director to develop a protocol to respond to suspected
Formulate a Plan

• Remember that YOU are not deemed a threat and YOU see the environment/circumstances that many cannot access or see.

• Your insight into the problem is invaluable!
We cannot escape ourselves.
False Promises

• Despite this media portrayal, human trafficking is a real problem and continues to grow all over the world, including here in the US.