



Human Trafficking “Red Flags” for First Responder/Emergency Care Professionals

Human trafficking victims often exhibit or live with one or more of the following:

- Mattresses on the floor as opposed to beds
- Lack of personal space; too many people sharing the living space.
- Victims often have no, or few, personal possessions.
- Rooms are sparse, with little furniture
- Victims frequently have no identifying documents, such as a driver’s license or passport. They may not even know their address, or be “just visiting”.
- Unusual security throughout, such as barred/locked windows, locked doors, covert video security, or even guards.
- Victims may exhibit signs of physical abuse, such as bruises, cuts, burns, scars, prolonged lack of healthcare, or malnourishment.
- Victims often exhibit fear or paranoia of law enforcement. They will commonly deny that they are victims or need assistance.
- Victims often avoid any eye contact with responders.
- Victims commonly are accompanied by their trafficker, who will speak for them, not let them out of his sight, or control interactions with responders.
- Victim stories are often inconsistent and/or lacking in significant details.
- Indicators of sex trafficking, such as condoms, service menus, “trick books”.

Human trafficking situations can be dangerous to you if you attempt to intervene. If you suspect human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-3737-888, or call 9-1-1.