

German EMS uses QR technology to discourage illegal photography at emergency scenes


Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe's "Gaffen Tötet," or "Gawking Kills," campaign warns of the penalties for interfering with emergency operations

May 10, 2021

By Laura French

GERMANY — A German ambulance service is using QR technology to deter bystanders from illegally photographing or taking videos at emergency scenes.

Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe launched its "Gaffen Tötet," or "Gawking Kills," campaign last month, which brings awareness to a recent law making it illegal for bystanders to take photos or videos of accident scenes, [according to a statement from the ambulance service](#). The German law, which went into effect on Jan. 1, 2021, imposes a penalty of up to two years in prison for violations.

 Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe in Germany outfitted ambulances and equipment with QR codes that trigger a warning to

Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe in Germany outfitted ambulances and equipment with QR codes that trigger a warning to "gawkers" who point their smartphone cameras at emergency scenes. (Photo/Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe)

To bring awareness to the dangers of "gawking" and filming at emergency scenes, which can interfere with rescue operations, Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe placed QR codes on some of its ambulances and EMS equipment that will send an automatic warning to someone who points a smartphone camera where the code is visible. Phone cameras that automatically scan QR codes will activate a webpage that reads, "Stop! Gawking kills!" in German.

The campaign is being piloted with eight ambulances and one intensive care vehicle in Berlin, according to Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe. If the campaign is found to be effective in deterring "gawkers," officials said it may be expanded to more ambulances across the country.

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

- [Promoting transparency and accountability with BWCs](#)
- [When de-escalation fails, with Jason Brooks](#)
- [Speed saves: A case for the rescue strike force](#)
- ['Cocaine bear': When animals attack](#)
- Th
u:
re

Please [sign in](#) or [register](#) to write your own comments below.
Before commenting, please read [EMS1's Commenting Policy](#)



Posted by **certplayavista** May 12, 2021

How does this effect the mainstream news media in covering breaking news? We in California have a simular law but it exempt News Media.

♥ 0

EMS1 TOP 5

- 1 [Video: 6 DCFEMS members placed on leave after physical fight on scene](#) 5
- 2 [5 errors that are giving you incorrect blood pressure readings](#) 14
- 3 [Former AMR paramedic accused of sexually assaulting 2 senior patients](#) 2
- 4 [Woman punches Okla. EMT through open ambulance window](#)
- 5 [ECG interpretation: 10 steps for rhythm identification](#)

[MORE EMS1 ARTICLES](#) >