## **Streamlined Security for Controlled Substances**

If your crews are fed up with keeping track of multiple key sets for controlledsubstance lockboxes and keeping records of user access, Tec Solutions may have the streamlined security system your department needs. Tec Solutions specializes in wireless access control, providing EMS and fire departments reliable systems that ensure controlled substances and patient records are only accessible to those meant to access them.

Larry Baumgart, EMT-P, operations manager of Mercy EMS (N.Y.), says Tec Solutions was the best fit for his agency. The company installed its NarcLocks, which are electronic wireless access-control locks, in the controlled-substance safes in all agency ambulances, fly cars, helicopters, and building safes. "Ease of installation, size, and no need for a power source were major factors" in choosing Tec Solutions, says Baumgart.

"Tec Solutions' programming hubs and chargers are also at each building, which allows us to utilize a minimal number of

keys for the maximum number of employees," says Baumgart. "The fact that the locks require no external power enabled us to also use them on our portable lockboxes."

The NarcLock stores the last 1,100 authorized and failed access attempts in its memory, while the key fobs store the last 12,000, allowing administrators to produce detailed monthly audit reports of user access through an online management system. Because it's web-based, admins can access this information from anywhere at any time. The platform allows users to assign keys to personnel (the locks can only be unlocked by authorized smart keys), view crew members' access activity, and even make customized access schedules.

Another advantage of the access control system is its ability to retrofit a department's existing lockboxes, so if your department is hesitant to make the switch for the sake of saving money and avoiding inconvenience, Tec Solutions has you covered.

"We were able to retrofit many of our



existing lockboxes with very little modification and additionally added a NarcLock as a secondary lock to our wall safes," says Baumgart. "Financially it was far less expensive to retrofit or modify than to purchase new safes, especially for the buildings. Retrofitting the NarcLocks was no more difficult than changing any standard cam lock."

Baumgart says this is particularly beneficial to his department because it provides secure access control for both of its patient transportation services: "As Mercy includes both ground and air transport, we were able to use the administration software to ensure various levels of security and access were met."

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