

Roadway Incident Safety Checklist

1) Roadway Incident Safety Training - All fire and emergency medical personnel must be trained on how to operate safely at emergency scenes on or near roadways as part of their initial orientation BEFORE they ever respond to their first emergency. All fire and EMS personnel should participate in regular in-service training about roadway incident safety strategies and tactics. Company officers should review struck-by incidents with their personnel and reinforce department policies and procedures to prevent similar incidents.

2) Multi-Agency Planning, Training, Policies and Procedures – Establish an agency standard operating policy (SOP) for safe procedures at roadway incidents. Collaborate with other emergency response agencies and mutual aid companies about incident procedures. Train together in the safety of a classroom BEFORE your next response.

3) Limit On-Scene Exposure – Respond only the apparatus and personnel necessary to safely handle a roadway incident. Stage all other units away from the scene and clear up units as their mission is completed BEFORE they can be struck by an out of control vehicle.

4) Apparatus Placement and Scene Protection – Size-up roadway incidents for all scene hazards including passing traffic. Position apparatus at an angle and turn the steering wheel away from the incident to provide a safe work zone. Utilize florescent pink emergency incident warning signs, arrow boards, variable message signs, road cones and law enforcement personnel to warn and direct approaching drivers. Get traffic to slow down and move over BEFORE they enter the incident scene.

5) Warning Lights and Apparatus Visibility – Design new apparatus emergency lighting packages to provide maximum safety while positioned at emergency scenes. Evaluate the effectiveness of existing emergency lighting while apparatus is parked on an angle. Design and install florescent and reflective markings on the rear of apparatus to improve daytime and nighttime visibility. Modify existing emergency lighting and safety features to improve scene safety BEFORE your apparatus is struck.

6) Retro-reflective AND Florescent Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Obtain and deploy high-visibility traffic vests for personnel working near moving traffic. Require personnel to wear helmets AND high-visibility PPE at highway incidents BEFORE they are struck. Complete turnout gear ensembles should be worn with high-visibility vests anytime ambient lighting is reduced due to inclement weather or nighttime conditions.

7) Use Safety Officers and Personnel Accountability Systems at Highway Incidents – Designate a safety officer for all highway incidents to monitor and improve traffic control devices and personnel safety features. Insure the use of proper PPE. Utilize personnel accountability systems at all highway incidents. Have safety officers correct and notify command of safety problems BEFORE personnel are struck by passing traffic.

8) Public Education – Use every opportunity to educate the motoring public how to react when approaching an emergency scene – Slow Down and Move Over! Meet with high school students BEFORE they obtain their drivers license and educate them how to react properly to the presence of emergency vehicles.

Source: Emergency Responder Safety Institute – www.respondersafety.com

