

# The First 15 Minutes

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### Strategies & Tactics for Roadway Incidents

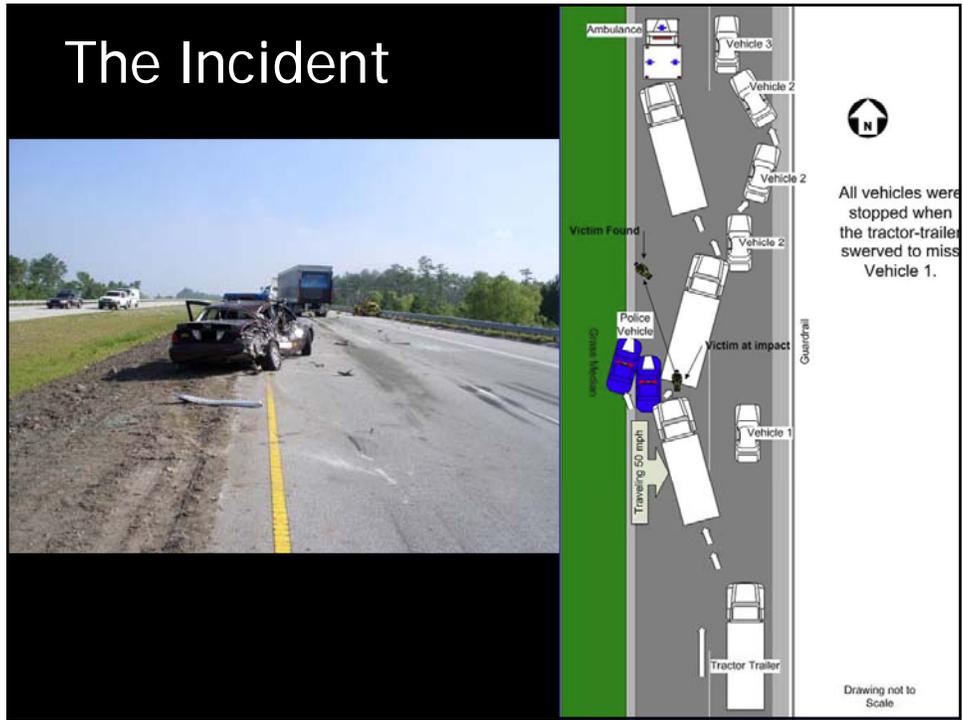
Jack Sullivan – [respondersafety@gmail.com](mailto:respondersafety@gmail.com)



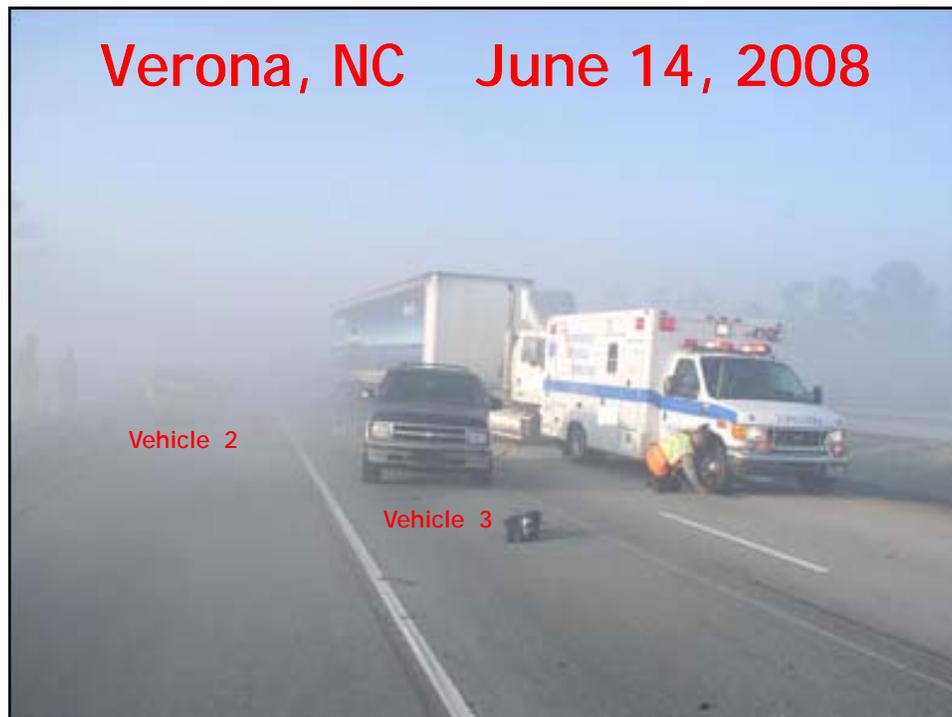
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# The First 15 Minutes



## The First 15 Minutes



### Contributing Factors (per NIOSH)

- Inability to establish traffic control on both sides of the divided highway. Ineffective emergency vehicle placement.
- Ineffective coordination & communication at scene.
- No pre-planning or joint training.
- Migration of fog and smoke mixture onto the highway.
- Operator of tractor-trailer not adjusting manner of vehicle operation during poor visibility. (65mph!)

# The First 15 Minutes

## The Goals

- Responder Safety
- Safe, Quick Clearance



## Traffic Incident Pre-Planning

# The First 15 Minutes

## Pre-Planning



- Law Enforcement
- Fire/Rescue
- EMS
- Dispatchers
- DOT/Public Works
- HAZMAT (Public/Private)
- Towing & Recovery
- Medical Examiner
- Media

Working together is the key to successful roadway operations

## Multi-Agency Response

### The Three C's

- **Communication**
  - Prior to, during, and following the incident
- **Cooperation**
  - Cooperation vs. Competition
- **Collaboration/Coordination**
  - Collaboration before the incident
  - Coordination during the incident

**Every agency has a role to play in safety and incident stabilization**

## The First 15 Minutes

### Before you respond

- Understand roles and responsibilities
- Practices and procedures for operations at roadway incidents (SOP/SOG)
- Responders have and use appropriate PPE
- Responders trained in safe roadway ops

### Common Policies & Procedures

#### Roadway operations

- Unified incident command
- Common terminology
- Apparatus/vehicle placement
- Personal protective equipment
- Temporary traffic control

# The First 15 Minutes

## Standards Based Training

- Job Responsibilities
  - Firefighter/Responder
  - Driver/Operators
  - Company Officers
- Current local and state standards, the MUTCD, Fire Dept. policies
- Regional multi-agency practices & procedures



Monday, April 16, 2012 | The online resource for training first responders

Responder Safety | CWF-A

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**ResponderSafety.Com Awarded Grant to Launch New Learning Network!**  
Free Training Modules and Webinars will educate Fire, Police, EMS, DOT, and Towing and Recovery in Safe Operating Practices at Traffic Incidents. [more](#)

**Featured Module**  
**EMERGENCY INCIDENT AHEAD**  
[Advance Warning](#)  
This module discusses the concept of advance warning, its benefits, and how to implement a range of advance warning devices. [more](#)

**Promo Video**  
  
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**E-mail Alerts**  
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**Upcoming Programs**  
  
**Blocking**  
This module discusses the concept of blocking, why it is important, how to determine whether linear positioning or block positioning is appropriate at a given incident. [more](#)

**National Unif**  
**National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management**  
This module presents the National Unified Goal as the road map for implementing cross-department cooperation and communication. [more](#)

**Poll**  
Do you own or plan on buying a tablet computer?  
 Yes-Apple  
 Yes-Android  
 No

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### New Training Resource!

# The First 15 Minutes

Virginia Highway Traffic Incident Management: Safe, Quick Clearance Strategies

**Main Menu**

- Module 1: Introduction
  - Tutorial
  - Topic 1: Course Overview
- Module 2: Traffic Incident Management Basics
  - Topic 1: TIM Phases and Processes
  - Topic 2: Terms and Tools
- Module 3: Traffic Control and Scene Management
  - Topic 1: Incident Command
  - Topic 2: Scene Safety
  - Topic 3: Emergency Responder Core Competencies
- Module 4: Typical Situations
  - Topic 1: Traffic Crashes
  - Topic 2: Additional Scenarios
- Addendum
  - Additional TIM Resources
  - Final Review
  - Course Completion Certificate

[http://www.virginiadot.org/info/TIM\\_Course/VDOT\\_CS\\_Interface.swf](http://www.virginiadot.org/info/TIM_Course/VDOT_CS_Interface.swf)

**Core Competencies for Incident Management**

[www.I95VIM.com](http://www.I95VIM.com)

**Another Training Resource!**

I-95 CORRIDOR COALITION

## The First 15 Minutes

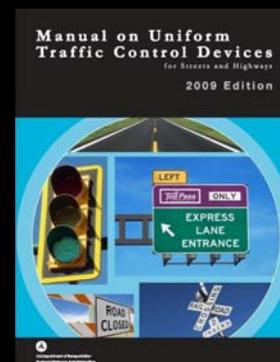
### National Unified Goal



- The National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management:
  - Responder Safety
  - Safe, Quick Clearance
  - Prompt, Reliable, Interoperable Communications
- <http://ntimc.transportation.org>

### National Standards – MUTCD

- MUTCD – Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- A National Standard issued by the Federal Highway Administration
- Details control of traffic through *Traffic Incident Management Areas (Chap. 6I)*
- <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>



# The First 15 Minutes

## NFPA Standards



- Professional Qualifications
  - NFPA 1001-2008 Firefighter
  - NFPA 1091 - Traffic Control Incident Mgmt \*\*
- Health and Safety - NFPA 1500-2007\*\*
- Fire Apparatus - NFPA 1901-2009\*\*

\*\* References the MUTCD

## Dispatch/Pre-arrival



- Type of incident
- What units/resources are responding
- Conditions
  - Weather
  - Time of day
  - Traffic volume and movement

# The First 15 Minutes

## Scene Size-up

### Observations

- Exact Location
- Number of vehicles
- Immediate hazards



### Initial Decisions

- Placement of first-in units
- Safety of responders
- Initial assignments



## Location

- Degree of risk?
- Can you be seen?
- Can approaching vehicles stop safely or move around the incident?



# The First 15 Minutes

## Immediate Hazards

- Location of incident
- Position of vehicles and/or victims
- Electrical wires
- Fire
- Weather
- Fuel spills
- Hazmat

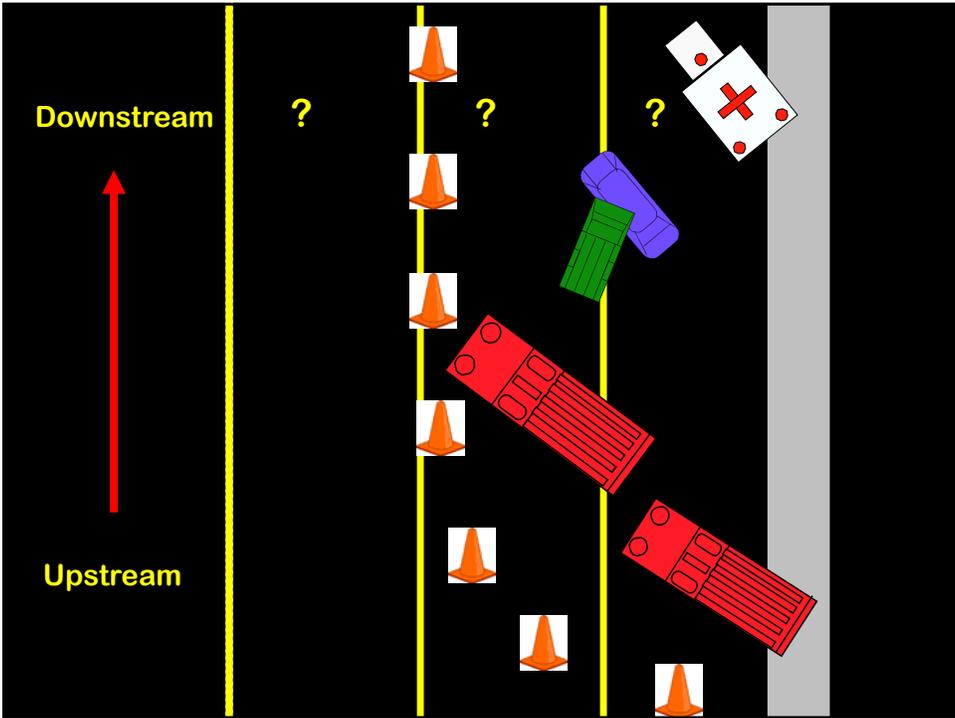
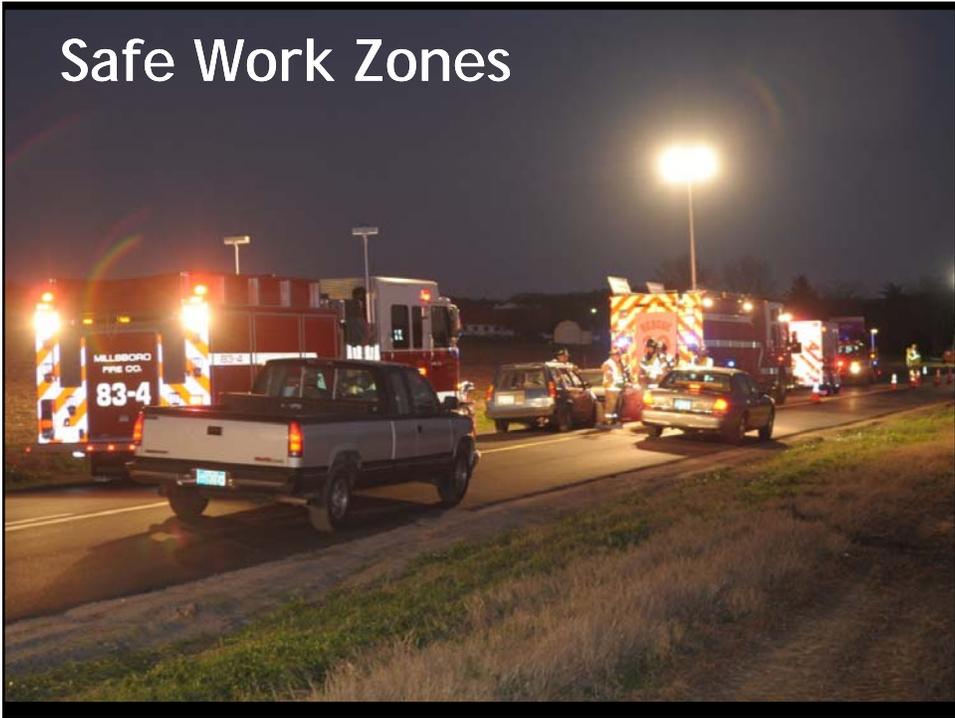


Line of Sight  
&  
Visibility of Incident

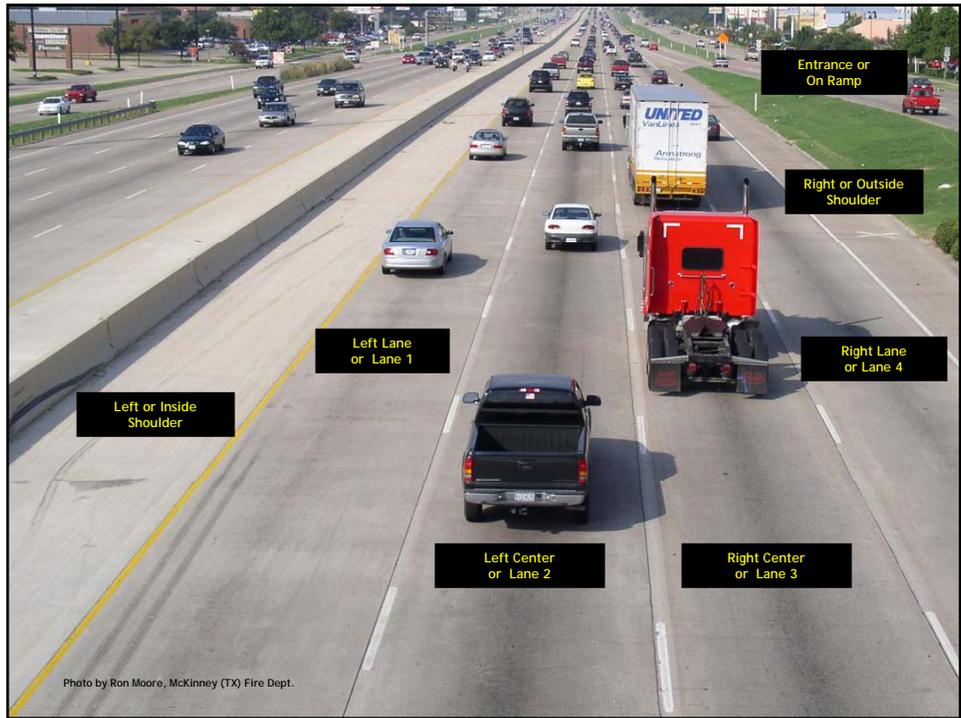
Can vehicles  
pass safely?



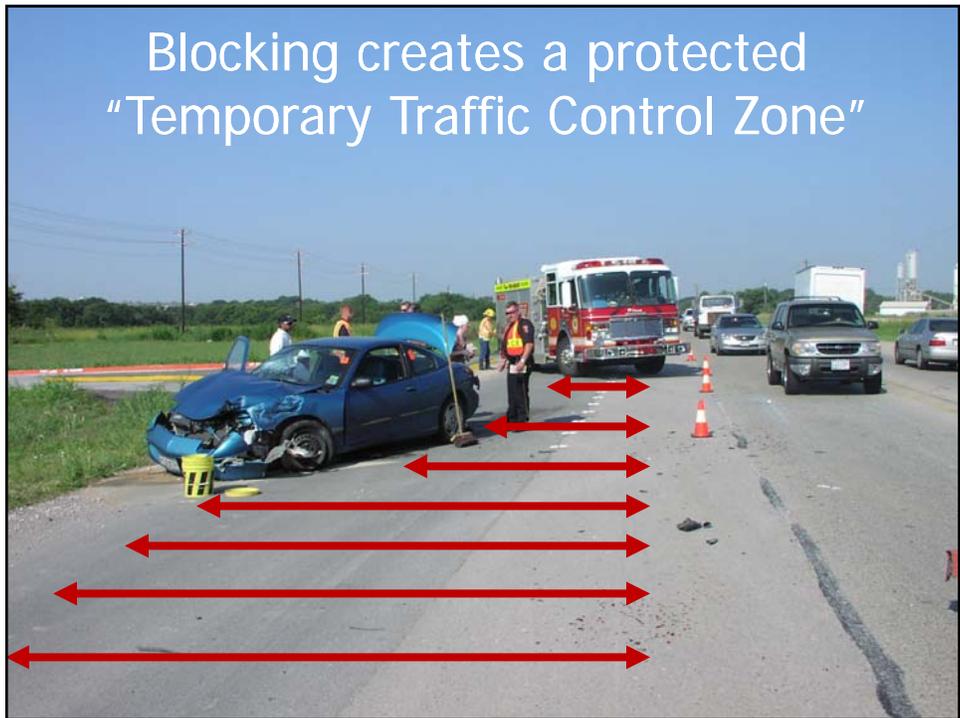
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**Blocking - Priorities**



- ✓ Closest Traffic
- ✓ Greatest Volume
- ✓ Greatest Speed
- ✓ Least Visibility
- ✓ Task at hand
  - ✓ Fire
  - ✓ EMS / Extrication

# The First 15 Minutes

## Ambulance Positioning



- If the ambulance is first-in, then use as the initial block
- Park downstream of incident if possible
- Angle the rig away from moving traffic

## Warning Light Management



**Turn "OFF" forward-facing white lights at night**

## The First 15 Minutes

### Temporary Traffic Control (TTC)



### TTC Objectives

- **Safety**
  - ✓ Responders
  - ✓ Victims
  - ✓ The public
- **Manage the impact of the incident**
  - ✓ Reduce potential for secondary accidents
  - ✓ Reduce excessive delay of traffic



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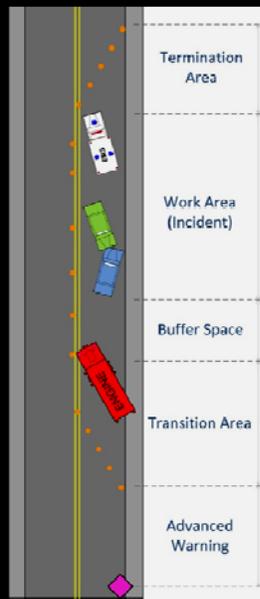
## Minimum Equipment for TCC

### NFPA 1901, 2009 Edition

- 5 Traffic cones
- Hi-Visibility vests
- Illuminated warning devices
- Chevrons

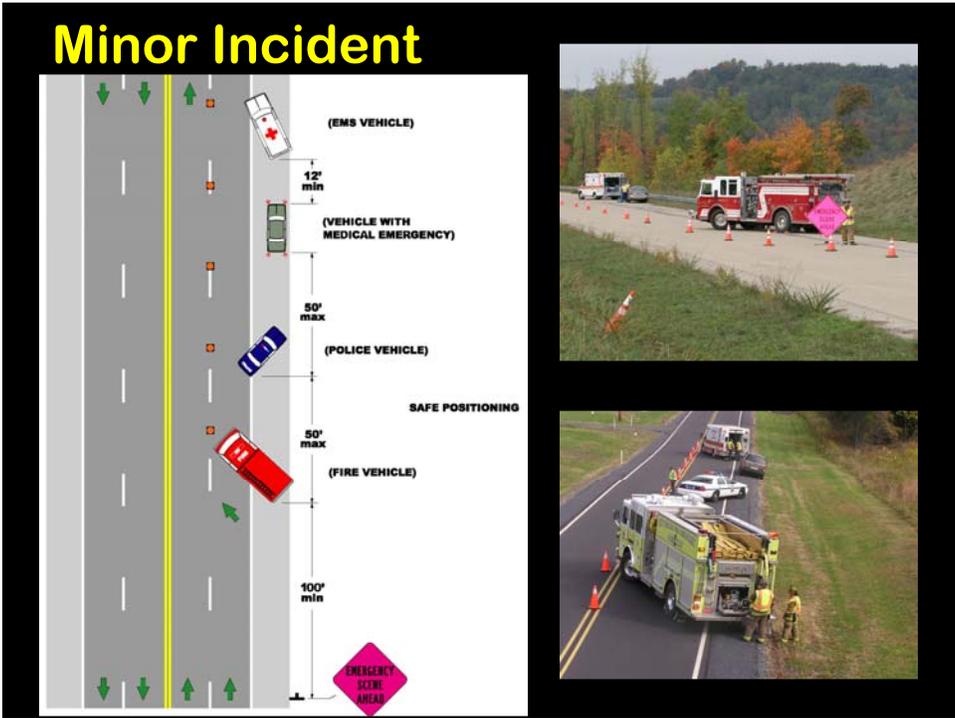
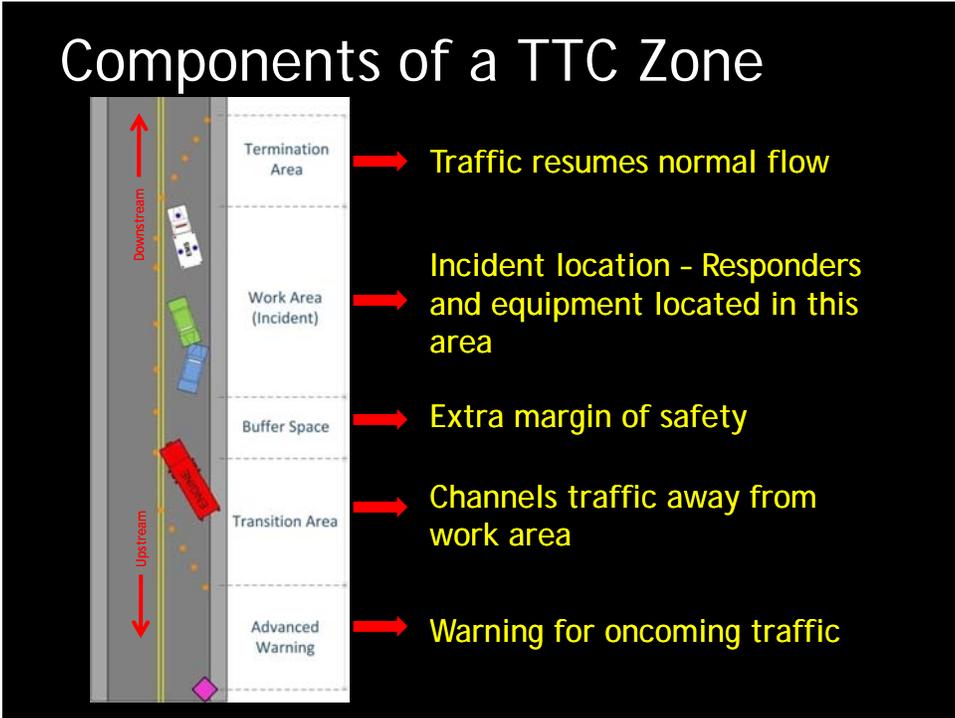


## Key Considerations in TTC



- Do approaching drivers know that lanes are blocked?
- Can responders be seen?
- Is there a safe work area for responders?
- Is there a clear lane around the incident scene?
- Is the transition back to normal conditions clear to drivers?

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## Advance Warning

1. Alert motorists
2. Transition from normal driving
3. Follow temporary traffic control measures

EMERGENCY SCENE AHEAD

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## Advanced Warning Signs



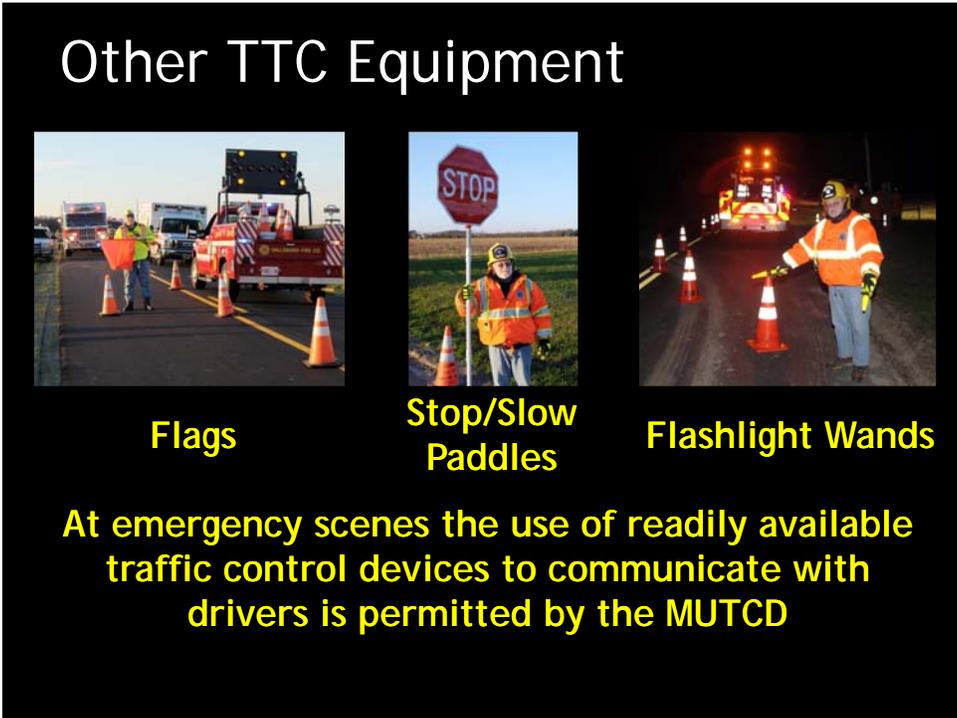
- **Warning signs**
  - Fluorescent pink background
  - Black letters & border
- **Position signs to provide maximum advanced warning to oncoming traffic**

**Advance Warning**



Road Type	Distance
Urban (low speed)	100 feet
Urban (high speed)	350 feet
Rural	500 feet
Highway	1000 feet

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## Incident Management/Command



**PD, FD & EMS as "Unified Command" must work together to implement an Incident Action Plan to manage the incident**



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