

Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guidelines

SUBJECT: HIGHWAY ACCIDENTS / FIRE SCENES

SOG 901

PURPOSE: The purpose of the subject is to provide for the safety of firefighters and their operators at the scene of accidents / fires on a roadway.

SCOPE: This policy shall apply to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department.

Hazard Awareness: More firefighters have been struck by vehicles at the scene of motor vehicle accidents than at any other type of emergency response. Always operate as if someone is trying to run you over.

PLACEMENT OF VEHICLES:

1. Park fire apparatus used to protect the scene at a 45 degree angle with the wheels turned as far as possible in the same direction of the angle.
2. Park far enough back from the work area so that the apparatus will protect the scene and the workers.
3. Try to park on the same side of the road as the accident or fire.
4. Establish a safe loading area for ambulances that will be transporting victims.
5. Stage responding apparatus that is not needed off the highway from the scene.
6. Exiting the vehicle take the extra time to look before you get out of the vehicle or open the cab door – it may save your life. Exit on the side away from moving traffic whenever possible.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:

1. Turn out gear shall be worn by personal responsible for firefighting and scene protection.
2. Safety vests are provided and shall be worn at accident scenes.
3. Traffic cones are available and should be used to channel traffic away from the scene. Flares are available and could be used at night along with the cones.

SOG 901: Page 1 of 2

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APPARATUS LIGHTING:

1. All warning lights shall be operating.
2. Headlight / strobes, should not pose glare hazards for motorists passing the scene. Work areas should be lighted with flood lights at night.
3. All arrow sticks shall be used to alert traffic and channel it to the side.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

1. Coordinate traffic control strategies with county and state officers, whoever is in charge of the scene.
2. If directing traffic – never turn your back to traffic, have a way out if traffic does not stop.
3. Constantly watch for careless drivers.
4. Flashlights, radio communications, safety vests, and glow sticks are available and shall be used for directing traffic.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Persons engaged in directing traffic shall be equipped with radio communications at all times.
2. The Incident Command System shall be established immediately upon arrival by first on scene and to communicate any other conditions not included in the initial call.