



Rogers Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures

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| Policy Title: | Motor Vehicle Accident Operations | | |
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| Approved By: | Tom Jenkins | Last Updated: | January 2017 |
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide information on standard tactics and safety considerations when responding to motor vehicle accidents on city streets, limited access highways, and urban intersections.

POLICY

The complexity and severity of motor vehicle accidents varies greatly based on many variables. Dispatchers utilize Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) software to gather specific information about the number of vehicles and types of injuries involved in a collision and dispatch the appropriate quantity and type of resources. In general, fire department resources may *initially* respond to motor vehicle accidents in five different ways:

1. Motor vehicle accidents with injury, in-city
2. Motor vehicle accidents with injury and extrication, in-city
3. Motor vehicle accidents with injury, out-of-city
4. Motor vehicle accidents with injury and extrication, out-of-city
5. Fluid spills from non-injury motor vehicle accidents

Size-Up

When conducting size-up at a motor vehicle accident, it is important to determine the scope of the incident. Oftentimes, vehicles involved in an accident may be parked some distance away from the collision site. Careful attention should be given to determining the number of cars involved and their location, along with any special hazards (e.g. leaking fluids or fires) that might be present. The first arriving unit/company shall transmit a brief initial report immediately upon arrival that includes the following information:

- Quantity of vehicles involved
- Type of damage (minor, moderate, major)
 - Minor – no passenger compartment intrusion
 - Moderate – limited passenger compartment intrusion
 - Major – significant passenger compartment intrusion

- Collision type (head-on, rollover, etc)
- Special hazards (car on fire, leaking fluids, victims in the roadway, extrication likely, etc)
- Lanes Blocked (direction of travel, complete or partial blockage)

Example: "Ladder 1 is on scene of a two-car, head-on, accident with moderate damage, northbound lanes partially blocked, establishing Main Street Command"

After a thorough size-up of the accident has occurred, a second radio report shall be transmitted that details the following information:

- Quantity of vehicles involved (this number can sometimes change after a more thorough size-up)
- Total number of occupants involved
- Estimate number of patients requiring transport

Example: "Main Street Command to RCD, this is a two car accident with four occupants and one patient."

Tactical Considerations and Standing Assignments

The type and complexity of hazards at motor vehicle accidents varies greatly. PPE should be utilized in accordance with the predominant risk of the incident. If no fire is present and vehicle extrication is not likely, PPE should include a duty uniform and an ANSI-compliant traffic vest at minimum. Traffic control should be prioritized in accordance with SOP 304. It is the responsibility of the fire company assigned to these accidents to always assess or prepare for fire suppression activities. In cases where vehicle extrication will take place, a minimum of a booster line should be deployed and ready for use. When no threat of fire is identified, and no patient entrapment is found, no action is necessary by the company.

1. Motor vehicle accidents with injury, in-city

Fire Company: Establish command, block traffic, assess for fire suppression needs, and assist with patient care and transportation in support of the paramedic ambulance

Paramedic Ambulance: Identify location of patients and conduct triage, treatment and transportation functions

2. Motor vehicle accidents with injury and extrication, in-city

Fire Company: Block traffic, prepare for fire suppression needs, control sources of ignition, and remediate fluids

Paramedic Ambulance: Identify location of patients and conduct triage, treatment and transportation functions

Ladder Company: Assist with patient access and extrication

Rescue Company: Provide extrication, scene lighting and incident logistics

Tour Commander: Establish or assume incident command

3. Motor vehicle accidents with injury, out-of-city

Paramedic Ambulance: Identify location of patients and conduct triage, treatment and transportation functions

4. Motor vehicle accidents with injury and extrication, out-of-city

Jaws Company: Block traffic, prepare for fire suppression needs, provide extrication, control sources of ignition, and remediate fluids

Paramedic Ambulance: Identify location of patients and conduct triage, treatment and transportation functions

5. Fluid spills from non-injury motor vehicle accidents

Fire Company: Block traffic, prepare for fire suppression needs, control sources of ignition, and remediate fluids