

Vehicle Positioning and High Visibility Apparel

Supersedes:

Effective: 11-23-08

Each year, more than 100 workers are killed and over 20,000 are injured after being struck while operating at roadway incidents. Department members should understand and appreciate the high risk that responding personnel are exposed to when operating in or near moving vehicle traffic, and always consider moving vehicles a threat to your safety.

1. Parking and Stationing At An Incident

- 1.1. Upon arrival at the scene of an emergency, the operator shall position and park the vehicle in a safe place, out of the way of other emergency vehicles, local traffic, and other on-scene activities, if possible. The operator should consider the following variables when parking the vehicle: access to the incident; ability to leave the scene; other responding emergency vehicles; (at a fire scene, always anticipate the possibility of being blocked in by subsequently arriving emergency apparatus); traffic and weather conditions;
- 1.2. Always look before stepping out of vehicle, or into any traffic areas. When walking around the ambulance parked adjacent to moving traffic, keep an eye on traffic and walk as close to ambulance as possible. Avoid turning your back on approaching traffic to the extent possible.
- 1.3. Upon arrival at a roadway incident where other emergency vehicles are already on scene, the ambulance operator should position the vehicle beyond the accident scene, if possible, preferably along the shoulder of the road. The EMS vehicle should be positioned as close as possible to the incident, taking care to avoid any fuel spills or other scene hazards.
- 1.4. At a highway or other high speed roadway incident where an EMS vehicle is the first emergency vehicle on scene:
 - Advise the dispatcher of the need for additional resources to assist with traffic control.
 - Position the EMS vehicle, with the appropriate warning lights on, in such a manner as to protect the working environment and warn approaching motorists of the hazard. Close as many lanes of traffic as necessary to ensure a safe working environment. Personnel should use extreme caution while working under these conditions.
 - Field Supervisors should be cognizant of incidents on the highway or other high speed roadways in which the EMS vehicle is the only emergency vehicle on scene and make every effort to respond and ensure that EMS personnel are operating in a safe environment.

- If conditions at the scene make a previously safe positioning of the ambulance unsafe, the vehicle should be moved to a safe, unimpeded location with the above factors still in mind.
2. High Visibility Safety Apparel. Department personnel are required to wear department issued or approved high visibility safety apparel whenever operating at the scene of a motor vehicle collision or other roadway incident in which personnel will be exposed to vehicular traffic. If not already being worn, the high visibility jacket or vest is to be immediately available in the cab of the vehicle, and donned upon exiting the vehicle at the scene of a roadway incident.
 - 2.1. “High visibility safety apparel” means personal protective safety clothing that is intended to provide conspicuity during both daytime and nighttime usage, and meets the performance Class 2 or 3 requirements of ANSI / ISEA 107-2004.
 - 2.2. Department issued “florescent” rain jackets (Blauer 2695-1) are considered ANSI 107-2004 Class 2 compliant. Vests meeting the “Public Safety Vest” standard (ANSI 207-2006) have been deemed to meet the requirements of 23 CFR 634 and may be used in lieu of Class 2 garments.

Reference: Federal Highway Administration; 23 CFR Part 634: “Worker Visibility”