

PURPOSE

To provide specific information and procedures to be used during, but not limited to, highway and freeway incidents.

PROCEDURE**1. Approach**

- A. Units should attempt to reach the scene in the direction of the reported incident unless otherwise instructed.
- B. Units should proceed in the opposite direction to normal flow ONLY when it is assured that all traffic has been stopped.
- C. It is the responsibility of the first unit to direct other units via alternate access if unable to reach the scene. Specific directions should be given regarding approach and direction for other companies when problems are encountered.
- D. Always position first arriving apparatus to block the scene, patients and emergency personnel by creating a physical barrier between the incident and the approaching traffic. The block should cover the incident lane and one additional lane of traffic that is not involved in the incident.
- E. During daytime operations, leave all emergency lights on to provide warning to drivers.
- F. For nighttime operations, turn OFF apparatus headlights and/or floodlights that are in direct view of oncoming traffic when deemed appropriate by a Company Officer, Command, or Safety.
- G. Safety vests and turnouts will be worn during ALL highway incidents except during firefighting activity.

2. Command

- A. The first unit arriving will establish Command and give an initial size up to include traffic conditions.
- B. Incident Command should attempt to make contact with law enforcement, public works and/or ODOT.
- C. During large, complex incidents a unified command should be initiated.
- D. Ensure all highway safety procedures are followed.

3. Termination

- A. Once the incident has been terminated, remove crews and equipment from the highway/freeway as quickly and safely as possible.
- B. All critiques and debriefs should be completed off the roadway in a more protected environment.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Always operate from a defensive posture.
- Consider pollution control
- Always consider moving vehicles as a threat to your safety. **Think Safety First!**