
CHAPTER II Operations
SUBJECT 3 Emergency Operations
TOPIC 7 Vehicular Accidents

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A. SCOPE

This topic includes Vehicular Accidents - No Entrapment, and Vehicular Accidents - With Entrapment.

B. PRIORITIES AT THE SCENE OF A VEHICLE ACCIDENT ARE

1. Safely remove occupants who are in or near vehicle, and prevent victim/s from suffering additional injury.
2. Keep non-response people away from the vehicle/s for a distance of at least 40 feet in all directions.
3. Eliminate post accident fires.
4. Be prepared to quickly extinguish any fire which may occur.
5. Assist rescue personnel with extrication of victim/s.
6. Control fuel spills.

C. WATER SUPPLY

Auto accidents with entrapment will require the first arriving Engine Company to have a charged supply line if possible. If not, take appropriate action to get supply to pumper as soon as possible, including calling additional companies, or water tanker as necessary.

D. SAFETY

1. Full Protective Clothing shall be worn at the scene of all vehicle accidents.
2. Protect personnel from traffic. A minimum of two lanes of traffic shall be stopped by placing the apparatus in position to stop traffic and/or police traffic control.

D. SAFETY (CONT)

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3. Be cognizant of fuel spills keeping firefighters, apparatus, pedestrians, and vehicular traffic out of the spill area and uphill, if possible. Foam may be needed to prevent ignition or re-ignition of fuel spills.
4. The electrical system can produce electrical shock and injury due to arcing. Disconnecting the battery cable may produce a spark capable of igniting fuel. Be especially careful when disconnecting battery cables. When necessary to disconnect battery, ALWAYS DISCONNECT THE GROUND (NEGATIVE) SIDE FIRST.
5. Vehicular accidents often damage overhead electrical equipment. Caution must be used in approaching accident scene.

E. VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS WITH ENTRAPMENT

NOTE: Two engine companies are dispatched on all entrapments; one to focus on fire control and one to focus on medical care. The first arriving engine will ALWAYS focus on patient care UNLESS the patients are endangered by fire, in which case the first arriving engine will focus on fire control and the second arriving engine will focus on patient care.

1. Determine if there is an actual entrapment.
2. It is advisable to use a dry chemical extinguisher to protect the victim while line is being laid.
3. Lay at least one 1 3/4" hose line, charge from tank if supply is delayed, and have it manned until victim is extracted.
4. Make sure vehicle is stabilized before rescue personnel enter.
5. Facilitate arrival of Air Care Helicopter if necessary. (See 204.04 Air Care Helicopter)
6. The Officer of Heavy Rescue company is in charge of the extrication. The person in charge of the EMS engine company is in charge of the medical operations. The District Chief will be in charge of overall operations.