

SCENE SAFE

Communicate, Coordinate, and Cooperate



Key Training Points from Video

Overall

- **Dangerous** – Roadway incidents are some of the most hazardous, random and chaotic.
- **Livelihood** – Local and state economy depends on reliable and efficient transportation.
- **The right tools** – Have traffic control equipment accessible and used, to make you visible.

Response

- **Discipline** — Keep your eyes and mind focused on the road and your surroundings. You can't help if you don't get there safely.
- **Control** — Keep your emergency vehicle under control at all times.
- **Caution** — Exercise care at intersections and don't rely on traffic light pre-emption systems.
- **Communications** — Talk to each other and remember other responders are also on the road.
- **Legal** — Follow state and local laws and your department's policies.
- **Always** — Wear your seat belt.

Approach

- **Road Conditions** — Dry, wet, snowy or icy?
- **Visibility** — Light, dark, sunset/sunrise, fog, rain or snow?
- **Sightlines** — How far back can you see the approaching traffic; any curves, hills? How much time do they have to react?
- **Time of day** — Rush hour, bar close, or before or after a major community event?
- **Day of week** — Weekend vs. Weekday traffic, local vs. visitor traffic

Arrival

- **Protect** — Use your emergency vehicle to block and protect where you will be working.
- **Be seen** – Wear high visibility, ANSI/ISEA 107 class 2 or 3, traffic vests and jackets.
- **Size up** — Tell dispatch your location, what you have and what you need, cancel what you don't.

- **Clear it or stay put?** — Can the scene be moved to a safer location?
- **How much and how long?** — Roughly estimate, is this going to be 15 minutes or over an hour? Ask for appropriate traffic control resources.
- **Safe zone** – Is there a protected area where you can dive to quickly if something goes wrong? Are there places where you should not dive to if something goes wrong (i.e.: bridges and overpasses)?

Emergency Traffic Control Scene Management

- **Lanes** — Choose which lanes can be used for traffic flow and which lanes are needed for work space.
- **Taper** — Use emergency vehicles and/or cones and flares to clearly direct traffic away from the work space.
- **Mark off** — Use cones or flares to separate traffic from the incident work space.
- **Advance Warning** — Use emergency vehicles and/or portable signs prior to the incident scene.
- **Queue** — Use advance warning to alert the public of unexpected slow or stopped traffic ahead.
- **Assess and Adjust** — Continuously monitor conditions, how traffic is responding, how far traffic is backing up, and make changes as needed.
- **Lights** — When parked, is emergency lighting and headlights blinding oncoming traffic or creating gawker issues? Can they be reduced?
- **Control** — Use standard and recognizable resources such as flagger stop/slow paddles to direct traffic on two-lane highways.

Clearing

- **Pick up** — Make re-opening lanes and roadways a priority, as quickly as can safely be done.
- **Everyone** — Protect all responders, including tow and recovery teams.
- **Communicate** – Everyone on scene should know how and when the lanes and the incident will be cleared.
- **Last to go** — Advance warning should be cleared from the incident scene last.