

Halifax Fire Department

July 11, 2003

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

Vehicle Accidents

4.01 PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for operations at vehicle accidents and vehicle extrication.

4.02 POLICY

The following apparatus shall be dispatched to a reported vehicle accident:

- A. Ambulance
- B. Engine 2
- C. Any other specialized unit requested by the Incident Commander

In the event of a vehicle accident or extrication, the following guidelines have been established.

4.03 PROCEDURES

- A. All apparatus responding shall utilize audible and visible warning devices.
- B. The Officer in Charge shall request dispatch to respond additional or special equipment, if necessary.
- C. If commercial trucks are involved, check placards and take necessary precautions.
- D. Give actual location of incident to dispatcher if other than original reported location and give brief initial report.
- E. Request Police Department units to respond to the scene if they are not already there. If police units are at the scene, coordinate with them.
- F. If extrication is indicated, a pre-connected 1 3/4" hose line shall be deployed and charged with a dry chemical or CO2 extinguisher as a back up.

4.04 SAFETY

- A. All personnel shall be in full protective clothing (ref. SOG 2).
- B. Place apparatus uphill and upwind from accident scene if possible. Apparatus should be parked between rescuers and oncoming traffic with parking brake set, wheels chocked, and turned toward curb.
- C. Stop all fuel leaks, if possible, and at no time should road flares be used by the Halifax Fire Department.
- D. Prior to rescue personnel entering vehicle, stabilize the vehicle using cribbing, chock blocks, ropes, vehicle emergency brake, etc.
- E. At no time shall a member of the Halifax Fire Department remove or come in contact with downed wires. The incident commander is responsible to request notification of the proper utility.
- F. Overturned vehicles should not be "righted" until patient(s) have been removed.
- G. Do not disconnect battery cables if flammable vapors are present.
- H. Members responding in personal vehicles shall not impede emergency vehicle access and are responsible for securing their own vehicle.

4.05 FUEL SPILLS

- A. Stop the leak, if possible, and prevent ignition utilizing hose lines to safeguard patient(s) as well as rescue personnel.
- B. If unable to stop leak by crimping fuel lines, patching or plugging, you may be able to fill fuel tank with water to level of leak so only water runs out.
- C. With a large fuel spill, consider foam to prevent ignition.
- D. Control run off from entering catch basins, rivers, streams, lakes etc.

4.06 EXTRICATION

- A. Make sure vehicle is stabilized before rescue personnel enter.
- B. Officer in charge should supervise the extrication operation.
- C. All personnel shall wear protective clothing.
- D. If auto glass needs to be broken or removed, all occupants shall be covered with a blanket or tarp for protection.
- E. During the use of extrication tools the EMS crew shall make every attempt to stabilize and protect the occupants from any further harm.

4.07 OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Officer in charge shall coordinate with ambulance personnel concerning patient care.
- B. Officer in charge should coordinate with police personnel concerning traffic control, crowd control, and any other police function required.
- C. Safety should be foremost in the mind of the officer concerning emergency personnel.
- D. All obviously deceased victims shall be covered completely and at no time shall they be placed in the ambulance.
- E. All equipment shall be put back in service as soon as possible.
- F. If the incident requires the use of Med Flight the officer in charge shall request them and the proper resources to secure a landing zone through dispatch.
- G. Hybrid vehicles (gas/electric) have high voltage electrical wires in them, usually colored orange. Use caution.
- H. Use caution, air bags do not immediately disarm after disconnecting the battery some take 15 seconds.