

# Operating Guidelines

Section: Motor Vehicle Accidents

Subject: Scene Safety at a Motor Vehicle Accident

Number: 1001

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## Guidelines

### 1001.1

A pumper shall be positioned so as to close down traffic (at a minimum) in the lane the incident is in and to provide protection to all personnel on scene. It should be positioned at an angle (front to the shoulder) to provide adequate fire protection for the personnel on scene.

### 1001.2

The Rescue Unit should be positioned to provide extrication (if required), or patient care (if required). On scene command should advise Rescue Unit of requirements prior to arrival. The Rescue Unit should be positioned to offer further protection to all personnel on scene.

### 1001.3

The third arriving unit should be positioned to be a blocking vehicle up stream of the traffic flow, at the rear of the crash site, parked at a 45-degree angle (front to the shoulder) and leaving a 30m buffer zone between the front of the blocking vehicle and the next closest fire vehicle at the scene.

**Note:** Any arriving police units should be positioned to give early warning of incident if at all possible. Preferably upstream first, then down-stream.

### 1001.4

All fire fighters arriving in personnel vehicles shall position them on the same side of the road way as the incident and well back from the scene. Four-way flashers should be used as well as green lights if fitted. At night headlights should be shut off.

### 1001.5

**Traffic Control Personnel** with vests, radios and signs shall be positioned upstream and downstream of the incident at the earliest opportunity. Traffic should be **closed**

**down** by arriving units, until traffic control personnel are in position and it is safe to move traffic around the incident. Traffic control shall not be established on highways where speed exceeds 90kph.

### **1001.6**

**Traffic Control Personnel** shall be assigned a radio Channel and radios will be checked prior to starting. Channels assigned shall be OFM Channel, Mutual Aid Channel or the Talk Around Channel.

### **1001.7**

**Turn out gear** with traffic vests, or coveralls with traffic vests shall be worn with helmets while performing traffic control.

### **1001.8**

**Stop signs** shall be used.

### **1001.9**

**Safety Zones** – Leave a safety zone of approximately 100 metres or one telephone pole length between when an approaching vehicle sees you and it has to stop. This distance has to be increased for poor weather visibility, or at night.

### **1001.10**

**Road Flares** shall be used, especially at night, to provide additional warning to oncoming traffic.

### **1001.11**

**Traffic Cones** shall be deployed to ensure a safety zone between fire department vehicles and moving traffic whenever possible. Fire fighters working at the scene shall take all reasonable precautions to always be on the non-vehicle lane side of the traffic cones. Traffic cones are also used to delineate traffic flow around and through the crash scene.

### **1001.12**

**400 Series Highways** – Emergency Personnel shall not operate outside of the safe zone created by emergency/traffic control vehicles.

**Remember the safety of all personnel on the scene shall be our primary concern at all incidents.**

## **Responsibility**

It will be the responsibility of all fire fighting personnel and supervisors to follow this guideline at every motor vehicle incident.