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# Emergency Operations

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| Book:   | 3- Emergency Operations           |
| Chapter | I- Alarms and Response Procedures |
| Subject | 4- Roadway Incident Safety        |
| Code    | 3-I-4                             |
| Revised |                                   |

## 4.01 Purpose

To provide incident responders with a uniform guide for safe operations at incidents occurring on or near roadways.

## 4.02 Policy

- a. It shall be the policy of the Jersey Village Emergency Services to respond to and operate on all roadway incidents in a safe manner.
- b. To utilize all safety equipment available to us to provide protection for emergency personnel as well as the public.
- c. To provide a safe environment on all roadway incidents for emergency personnel to operate.

## 4.03 Procedure

### A. Response

1. Emergency responders need to operate safely, making every effort to minimize the risk of injury to themselves and those who use the roadway system.
2. Responders operating in the emergency mode need to operate warning devices following the departmental policies (3-I-1 Alarm Response Procedure) (3-I-3 Non Emergency Response).
3. Response shall be in the normal direction of travel, unless the IC on scene can confirm that all oncoming traffic has been stopped and no civilian vehicles will be encountered in the opposing lane.
4. If because of traffic congestion an emergency vehicle must travel in an opposing lane, the Officer in Charge (OIC) of that vehicle shall make the determination to do so. The OIC shall take into consideration the type of call, the nature of services needed, the first arrival reports and the risks involved before allowing any vehicle to travel in an opposing lane.

### B. Arrival

1. The first arriving vehicle shall give a situation report, and advise other apparatus and vehicles responding of any pertinent information concerning the response route.

2. If traffic control assistance is required at an incident scene, the Incident Commander shall coordinate with the Police Services Officer In Charge, the control of traffic to best protect Emergency Services Personnel and equipment.
3. If Texas Department of Transportation (Tex DOT) services are going to be needed the IC shall contact Communications, give a brief description of what will be needed and have the Communications Operator contact them.

#### C. Parking of Response Vehicles

1. Providing a safe incident scene for emergency responders is a priority at every emergency incident. However, consideration must be given to keeping as many traffic lanes open as possible. Except for those vehicles needed in the operation, all vehicles should be parked to side of the roadway. Parking should be on the shoulder or the median area, if one exists, but not both. Parking emergency response vehicles completely out of travel lanes greatly assists in the movement of traffic. If not needed to illuminate the scene, drivers should turn off vehicle headlights when parked at incidents.
2. The proper spotting and placement of emergency apparatus and vehicles is the joint responsibility of the driver and incident commander. The proper positioning of emergency response vehicles at the scene of an incident assures that other responding resources have easy access, a safe working area and helps to contribute to effective overall operation, The safety of everyone on the scene is foremost while they are operating, both in emergency and non-emergency situations.
3. As much as is possible all emergency vehicles and apparatus should park beyond the accident scene. Consideration should be given to the need for vehicles to depart the scene (ambulances leaving, transporting to hospital).
4. Incident Command should coordinate with Police Services to have an incident safety zone established to control traffic in both directions around the incident.

#### D. On Scene Actions

1. All personnel should check to ensure that traffic has stopped or the path is clear before exiting any emergency vehicle, to avoid the possibility of being struck by a passing vehicle.
2. All personnel shall be in appropriate high visibility protective clothing or traffic vests as the situation indicates while operating at the scene.
3. As soon as possible the Driver/Operator (D/O) of responding vehicles shall position traffic control devices (traffic cones) in the roadway to warn oncoming vehicles. The traffic cones assist in channeling traffic away from the incident. Placement of traffic cones shall begin closest to the incident, working toward oncoming traffic. When placing traffic control devices, care should be exercised to avoid being struck by on coming vehicles.