

## CICERO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Department Procedural Order		Date of Issue	Effective Date	Order Number
<b>Subject:</b>	Vehicle Accidents – Initial Response Actions	09/05/19	09/05/19	19-002
<b>Amends:</b>		<b>Rescinds:</b>		Page 1

### I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide information on standard tactics and safety considerations when responding to motor vehicle accidents on city streets that include residential and/or commercial two-lane roadways, as well as, four lane state roads and urban intersections.

### II. Policy:

The complexity and severity of motor vehicle accidents varies greatly based on many variables. Dispatchers utilize emergency dispatch software to gather specific information about the number of vehicles and types of injuries involved in a collision and dispatch the appropriate quantity and type of resources. In general, Cicero Fire Department resources may *initially* respond to motor vehicle accidents in three (3) different ways:

1. Motor vehicle accidents with potential injury on ANY roadway including two-lane roadways, four-lane roadways, and within intersections  
**One (1) Engine, One (1) Truck), One (1) Ambulance & F-12\***
2. Motor vehicle accidents with potential injury and extrication  
**One (1) Engine, Two (2) Trucks, One (1) Ambulance & F-12**
3. Delayed vehicle accidents requiring EMS response only  
**One (1) Ambulance**

*Once EMS Units arrive on the scene of their “EMS Only” response, it may become necessary, based upon traffic conditions, to request additional Fire units to the scene to assist with traffic control and scene safety.*

- \* If F-12 is not available to respond to the incident, then the Truck Company Lieutenant will assume command once they arrive at the accident scene. Additionally, EMS units are **NOT** to hold-up and/or cancel **ANY** fire apparatus that are responding to the scene of a motor vehicle accident

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### III. Size-Up:

When conducting size-up at a motor vehicle accident, it is important to determine the scope of the incident. Oftentimes, vehicles involved in an accident may be parked some distance away from the collision site. Careful attention should be given to determining the number of vehicles involved and their location, along with any special hazards (e.g. leaking fluids, energized electrical lines or fires) that might be present. The first arriving unit/company shall transmit a brief initial report immediately upon arrival that includes the following information:

- Quantity of Vehicles Involved
- Type of Damage (minor, moderate, major)
  - Minor – no passenger compartment intrusion
  - Moderate – limited passenger compartment intrusion
  - Major – significant passenger compartment intrusion
- Collision Type (head-on, rollover, etc.)
- Special Hazards (vehicle on fire, leaking fluids, energized wires down, victims in the roadway, extrication likely, etc.)
- Lanes Blocked (direction of travel, complete or partial blockage)
- Directions to additional incoming fire apparatus that may include from which direction to approach the scene and where to position the apparatus to provide maximum scene safety, based upon current traffic conditions.

*Example: "Engine 1 is on the scene of a two-car, head-on, accident with minor damage, northbound lanes partially blocked, establishing Austin Blvd. command. Engine 1 to Truck 2, assistance is needed to block southbound traffic on Austin Blvd. to provide scene safety and to clear an exit for the Ambulance."*

**NOTE:** Under no circumstances should any first arriving Engine, Truck, or EMS Companies release and/or 'hold-up' additional incoming units that are en route to the accident scene. Fire companies shall be cancelled and/or released from vehicle accident scenes by F-12 exclusively.

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After a thorough size-up of the accident has occurred, a second radio report shall be transmitted that details the following information:

- Quantity of the vehicles involved (this number can sometimes change after a more thorough size-up)
- Total number of occupants involved
- Estimate number of patients requiring transport

*Example: "Austin Blvd. command to Cicero Dispatch, this is a two car accident with four occupants and one patient."*

#### **IV. Tactical Considerations & Standing Assignments (Level of Response):**

The location, type and complexity of hazards at motor vehicle accidents vary greatly. PPE should be utilized in accordance with the predominant risk of the incident. If no fire is present and vehicle extrication is not likely, PPE should include full duty uniform and an ANSI-compliant traffic vest at minimum. Traffic control and safe parking while operating in and near vehicle traffic should be prioritized in accordance with Cicero Fire Department SOP 19-003, "Safe Parking While Operating in or Near Traffic Vehicles".

Special considerations shall be taken whenever responding to and/or working within the scene of any motor vehicle accident taking place on a four-lane roadway. Four-lane roadways are particularly dangerous as vehicle traffic is typically heavier and speeds are generally higher. These factors heighten the risk for additional accidents that can potentially cause life-threatening injuries to any emergency responders working within the accident scene.

It is the responsibility of the fire companies assigned to these accidents to always assess or prepare for fire suppression activities. In cases where vehicle extrication will take place, a minimum of a booster line should be deployed and ready for use. When no threat of fire is identified, and no patient entrapment is found, no action is necessary by the fire company other than to assist EMS with patient care and/or transport.

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Listed below are the three (3) levels of response for each type of motor vehicle accident:

### 1. Motor vehicle accidents with potential injury (All roadway types)

- Engine Company – Assess for fire suppression and/or extrication needs, establish traffic control and scene safety, and assist with patient care and transportation in support for the paramedic ambulance.
- Truck Company – Assess for extrication needs, establish traffic control and scene safety, and assist with patient care for the paramedic ambulance.
- EMS Ambulance – Identify location of patients and conduct triage, treatment and transportation functions.
- F-12 – Establish command of the scene regarding scene safety, proper apparatus placement, traffic control, accident cleanup and the safe release of fire companies back to quarters. F-12 will also utilize Cicero Police units already on the scene to assist with traffic control. Additionally, F-12 may communicate to dispatch the need for additional Fire and/or EMS units to respond to the scene of the incident for scene safety, accident cleanup, patient transport, etc.

### 2. Motor vehicle accidents with potential injury and extrication<sup>1</sup>

- Engine Company – Block traffic, prepare for suppression needs, control sources of ignition, and remediate fluids.
- Truck Company #1 – Provide extrication of patient(s), provide scene lighting, and incident logistics.
- Truck Company #2 – Provide extrication of patient(s), provide scene lighting, and incident logistics.
- EMS Ambulance – Identify location of patients and conduct triage, treatment and transportation functions.

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<sup>1</sup> (See Cicero Fire Department SOP 16-002 for more detail on extrication)

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### 3. Delayed vehicle accidents requiring EMS only response

- EMS Ambulance – Identify location of patients and conduct triage, treatment and transportation functions.

Once EMS Units arrive on the scene of their “EMS Only” response, it may become necessary, based upon traffic conditions, to request additional Fire units to the scene to assist with traffic control and scene safety.

#### V. Scene Safety:

Above all, the safety of scene personnel (including Fire, Police, EMS, Public Works, CSOs, etc.) the patient(s) involved in the accident, and citizens both in and around the accident scene are of the utmost concern. All proper apparatus placements, traffic deterrents, safety PPE and the proper administration of all safety guidelines and SOPs will be employed. Please refer to Cicero Fire Department SOP 19-003 regarding proper apparatus placement and roadway incident safety for more detail.

#### VI. Traffic Control:

At major intersections, it may be necessary for F-12 (or incident Command) to contact Cicero Police and/or Community Service Officers (CSOs) to assist with traffic control. F-12, or Command, shall provide specific directions to the police and/or CSOs as to exactly what the traffic control needs are. Ensure that police and/or CSOs are parking to protect themselves and the scene. Position Engines, Trucks, and Ambulances to protect patient loading areas.

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Traffic accidents and emergencies that occur on four-lane roadways pose a particularly high risk to emergency personnel. Speeds tend to be higher, traffic volume is significant, and motorists sometimes have little opportunity to slow, stop, or change lanes.

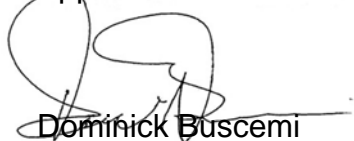
**Where need be, the four-lane roadway can be completely shut down.**

Coordinated efforts between both the Cicero Fire and Police departments will ensure the proper placement of vehicles and personnel to safely & completely shut down the four-lane roadway to protect the accident scene.

### **VII. Responsibility:**

- A. It shall be the responsibility of each member of the Cicero Fire Department to follow this procedure and to operate within defined guidelines.
- B. It shall be the responsibility of the Officer in charge of each Fire Station to ensure that the Fire Department members are familiar with this procedure and are operating within defined guidelines.
- C. It shall be the responsibility of the On-Duty Assistant Chief to assure that all Fire Department members are adhering to this procedure and are operating within defined guidelines.

Approved



Dominick Buscemi  
Fire Chief