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**Approved By: Fire Chief
Evaluation Date: 09-01-08**

Purpose: The purpose of this guideline is to provide for a consistent and safe response to all motor vehicle accidents. Different makes and models of all the vehicles and the increasing use of technology on these vehicles have increased the hazards associated with these responses.

SCOPE: At a minimum, all personnel will be wearing all of their protective clothing including boots, bunker pants and jacket, helmet, and gloves. SCBA will be readily available depending on whether there are any fire hazards or toxic vapors present.

All emergency vehicles will park, if possible, up-hill, up-wind, at least (75) seventy-five feet away from the motor vehicle collision.

The Officer-in-Charge will perform a 360-degree size-up and determine if there are any life safety hazards at risk. Priority will be given to the safety of the emergency personnel on scene. If any occupants or patients are involved in the motor vehicle collision, if safe to do so, personnel will provide patient care as their first priority. Any additional resources needed will be requested through the Incident Commander on scene. All personnel will wear gloves and any other equipment necessary to provide full body substance isolation.

The vehicles involved will be secured and stabilized in the safest and easiest way possible. This will include ensuring the vehicle is turned off and the keys are taken out of the ignition, the vehicle is in park, and the parking brake is activated. Other methods to ensure vehicle stability are chocking of the wheels, placing cribbing under the vehicle, deflating the tires, or securing the vehicle with chains to a secure object. It must be noted that hybrid vehicles will move forward on emergency personnel when these vehicles are believed to be turned off. Their batteries continue to operate the vehicle even when they sound like the vehicle is turned off. It is imperative to ensure these vehicles are stabilized prior to beginning patient care on any accident scene.

All emergency personnel will be cognizant of air bags in the vehicles and maintain a safe distance when working inside of vehicles in which the air bags have not deployed. As a guideline, the distances of 5" for side air bags, 10" for driver side air bags, and 20" for passenger side airbags will be kept while performing rescue operations inside of vehicles.

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Any motor vehicle collisions that involve utility lines increase the hazards to all emergency response personnel. Emergency personnel will immediately notify the Utility Company to have them respond. If occupants are still inside the vehicles, they will be told not to touch anything and stay still until the Utility Company arrives to secure the power. Emergency personnel will secure the area and stay in verbal contact with the occupants to reassure them that they are going to be safe. Emergency personnel will not approach any vehicle with utility lines on it if any of the occupants are unresponsive. The Utility Company will be notified immediately and the area will be secured until their arrival. Once the Utility Company has confirmed that the power has been secured, emergency personnel can provide patient care.

Additional personnel on scene will at a minimum bring one multi-purpose extinguisher to the vehicle for fire suppression. If upon arrival there is any smoke or fire coming from the vehicles and personnel are still in the vehicle or working around the vehicle, emergency personnel will stretch at least an 1" $\frac{3}{4}$ handline to protect the occupants and emergency responders.

Any time extrication equipment is being used at a motor vehicle collision, a charged 1" $\frac{3}{4}$ handline will be put in place to provide for emergency responder protection. A Safety Officer will also be utilized as soon as possible when the appropriate amount of personnel arrive on scene.

Every motor vehicle collision will have the batteries of the vehicles disconnected. This is to eliminate any possible ignition sources during and after the collision. In addition to the battery being disconnected on every vehicle, every mobile device inside the vehicle will be disconnected and removed. Examples of these include, but are not limited to, cell phones, ipods, computers, and any other technological devices that could produce an electrical back feed into the vehicle. At least one Engine will remain on scene until the vehicle has been removed by a towing company.