

Volusia County Fire Services Safety Gram

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Volusia County Fire Chiefs M.O.P./SAFE POSITIONING WHILE OPERATING IN OR NEAR MOVING TRAFFIC

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The Volusia County Fire Chiefs have completed a comprehensive policy on apparatus positioning and firefighter safety, while operating in or near traffic. Firefighters, Company Officers, Captains, Division Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, and Chiefs should review this document.

Just like a Circle of Safety is done before you get in to a fire apparatus and drive off, the shadow of safety is the key element of your safety in or near traffic ways. You must take protective steps laid out in this policy to protect firefighters, EVAC personnel, and the public when you get out and conduct operation on scene in or near traffic.

The Safety Benchmarks in this policy need to be emphasized for personal safety to all Firefighters.

All emergency personnel are at a great risk of injury or death while operating in or near moving traffic. There are several specific tactical procedures that should be taken to protect all crew members and emergency service personnel at the incident scene including:

1. **Never trust approaching traffic.**
2. Never turn your back to approaching traffic.
3. Establish an initial block with the first arriving emergency vehicle or fire apparatus.
4. Always wear Class 3 high visibility reflective vests during non-firefighting operations.
5. Always wear a structural firefighting helmet.
6. Wear full protective clothing plus highway safety vest at all vehicle-related emergencies between the hours of dusk and dawn or whenever lighting levels are reduced due to inclement weather conditions.
7. Turn off all illuminated sources of vision impairment to approaching motorists including vehicle headlights, unnecessary strobe lights, and spotlights.
8. Use fire apparatus and law enforcement vehicles to initially redirect the flow of moving traffic.
9. Establish advance warning and adequate transition area traffic control measures to reduce travel speeds of approaching motorists.
10. Use traffic cones and/or cones illuminated by flares or other lighting fixtures where appropriate for sustained highway incident traffic control and direction.
11. Assign personnel to the Flagger function (LEO/ Fire-Police) to monitor approaching traffic and activate an emergency signal if the actions of a motorist do not conform to established traffic control measures in place at the highway scene.

Dispersion level Chart

Dispersion Range 0-40 is stable air, low fire intensity, less long range spotting.

Dispersion Range 41-70 is moderate unstable air, increased fire intensity and long range spotting.

Dispersion Range 70+ is unstable air, high amount of upper lifting, intense fire activity, potential for long range spotting and plume dominated wildfires.

Fire-line Handbook Jan.'98

Fight fire aggressively, but provide for safety first.

Initiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior.

Recognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.

Ensure instructions are given and understood.

Obtain current information on status.

Remain in communication with crewmembers, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.

Determine safety zones and escape routes.

Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.

Remain in control at all times.

Stay alert, keep calm, act decisively.

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