



## MANAGING ROADWAY INCIDENTS

Incidents on roadways present many hazards to emergency responders. The following “top ten” points are provided to encourage safe practices, promote emergency responder safety and support getting everyone home.

1. Establish a dialogue with your local and state law enforcement agencies about responder safety on the roadway before the incident. Discussing the need and rationale for vehicle blocking and box building procedures before they are used will prevent problems on the roadway later.
2. Send a sufficient amount of apparatus to provide the necessary protection for operating members. Use mutual aid to enhance the response as needed.
3. Have a heavy piece of apparatus (engine, ladder or squad) remain on the scene to ensure EMS providers have a safe work zone at the scene of minor collisions.
4. Upon arrival, build a box around the incident to provide adequate work space for extrication, patient care, hoseline management and equipment staging.
5. Turn apparatus wheels so that if the apparatus is struck it will push away from the incident scene. Chock apparatus wheels as well.
6. Leave warning lights on and keep headlights on low beam.
7. Chock the wheels of vehicles involved in collisions. Ensure the ignition key is turned off and parking brakes are set.
8. Assign two safety functions: operations safety and scene safety. The operations safety officer monitors what is happening inside the box. The scene safety officer watches traffic flow and warns members if a vehicle is going to penetrate the box.
9. Ensure all personnel are wearing high visibility retro-reflective clothing. While PPE provides some visibility, retro-reflective trim on PPE is often damaged by heat and smoke exposure.
10. Consult the Manual on Uniform Control Devices (MUCD) <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/> and [www.respondersafety.com](http://www.respondersafety.com) for additional information on safe highway operations.