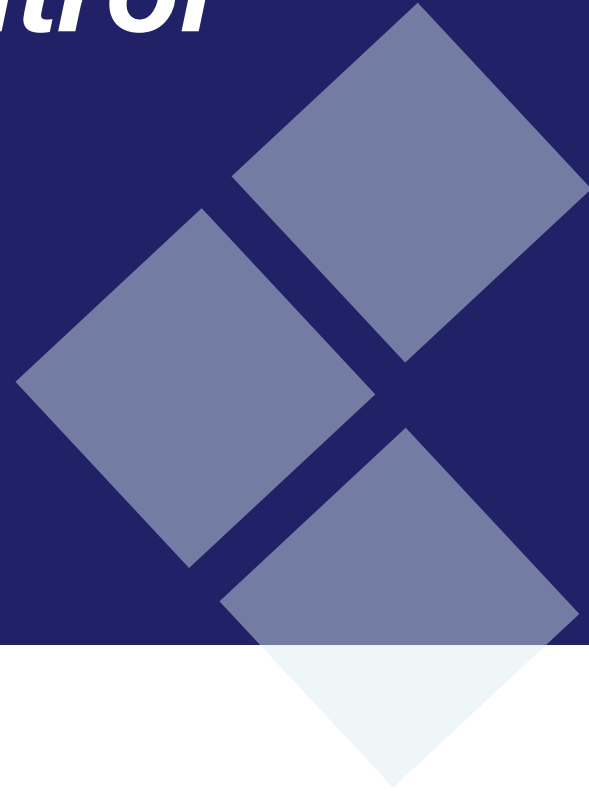




Traffic Control for Public Safety



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Test Your Knowledge

TRUE or FALSE?

Most motorists tend to slow down when entering the area of an emergency.

TRUE



Most drivers will slow when approaching an emergency scene. Unfortunately, they don't pay attention to direction, but rather look at the incident.

Test Your Knowledge

TRUE or FALSE?

It is better to control traffic with your hands so you can motion motorists to do exactly what you want.

FALSE



A stop/slow paddle is clear, consistent and easily seen.

Hand directions can be confusing and hard to see.

Test Your Knowledge

TRUE or FALSE?

Before stopping the first car, the flagger should stand on the shoulder of the roadway.

TRUE



Proper position is on the shoulder with the stop sign facing traffic you want to stop.

Test Your Knowledge

TRUE or FALSE?

If using a flag, wave the flag when you want traffic to stop quickly, direct traffic, or slow down.

FALSE

Waving the flag is only proper for slowing traffic. Hand signals should be used for stopping and having traffic proceed.



Test Your Knowledge

TRUE or FALSE?

To stop traffic, the flagger should hold the paddle in the hand closest to the roadway.

TRUE

Position the sign closest to traffic.

Your hand should be used facing traffic, palm up.



Traffic Control at Emergency Scenes



“Firefighters responding to calls, need to operate as if someone is trying to run them over”

James Joyce, Commissioner
Chicago Fire Dept.
January 2001

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Risk Management Services

Traffic Control at Emergency Scenes

- Protect First Responders
- Protect victims
- Protect motorists and roadway users
- Protect yourself
- Reduce risk of liability
- Facilitate rescue of victims; scene security and investigation; mitigation of the emergency



When to Control Traffic

Emergencies

- Fires
- Accidents



Road Construction/Work Zone

- Closures
- Detours



When to Control Traffic

Special Events

- Parades
- Festivals & Fairs
- Old Home Days



Storms

- Downed trees
- Flooded roads
- Power outages
- Traffic signal outages



When to Control Traffic



Voting

Demonstrations



Hazards of Traffic Control at Emergency Scenes



Risks

- Passing Vehicles
- Environment

Some Facts*

- Nearly 15 First Responders die each year
- “Struck-by Fatalities” are a leading cause of Law Enforcement Line-of-Duty Deaths
- 25% of Firefighter “Struck-by Fatalities” were caused by responding emergency vehicles

* Source: NFPA (2000-2013) and ODMP (2006-2017) Statistics

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Risk Management Services

Sometimes it seems like we're trying to get run over....



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Who's Responsible for Traffic Control at an Emergency?



Knowing Your Authority

NH RSA 265:37-a Motorist Duties When Approaching Highway Emergencies.

I. When in or approaching an incident involving a fire, collision, disaster, utility construction or maintenance, or other emergency resulting in partial or complete blockage of a highway, or a location where a police officer has made a traffic stop, every driver other than the driver of an emergency response vehicle, shall:

- (a) Maintain a reduced speed.
- (b) **Obey the directions of any authorized person directing traffic and of all applicable emergency signals and traffic control devices.**
- (c) Vacate as soon as possible any lane wholly or partially blocked.
- (d) Give a wide berth, without endangering oncoming traffic, to public safety personnel, any persons in the roadway, and vehicles displaying blue, red, or amber emergency or warning lights.

Plan and Prepare

- Develop policy and procedures
- Conduct training
- Work with all local agencies to establish relationships
- Implement a Traffic Control Plan for all users, not just motorists!!
- Preplan for high frequency locations
- Determine how to address the public



NH DOT Routes ([@NHDOTRoutes](#))

2/13/20, 7:30 AM

CRASH UPDATE Rindge Rt 119 closed at Bemis Tavern Rd for a crash

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Risk Management Services

Consider the following...



Types of Emergencies

- Short Term
- Long Term



Controlling Traffic Safely

**Policies
Procedures
SOGs**

Equipment

Tactics

Training





**Policies
Procedures
SOGs**

**Policies
Procedures
SOGs**

Reduce the Risk

Limit apparatus/personnel on scene

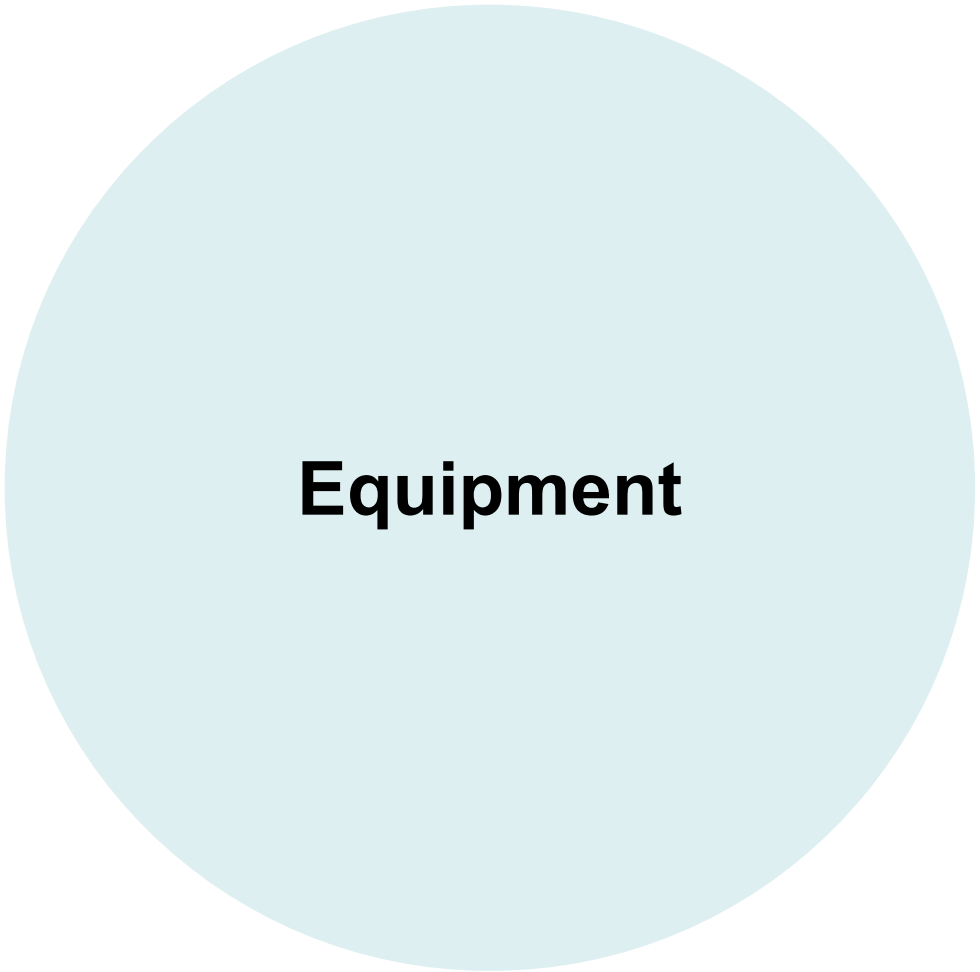
Only necessary staff on scene

Assign a Safety Officer

Only essential vehicles – limit POVs

Leave the scene;
clear road as soon as possible





Equipment

Uniforms – Follow Your Agency's Policy

Equipment

- Traffic Vest w/Retroreflective Striping (Class II Minimum)
- Paddle vs. Flag vs. Wand
- Water, Sports Drinks
- Ear and Eye Protection
- Helmet (Optional)
- Cones
- Bug Spray
- Rain/Cold Weather Gear





Vehicle Positioning

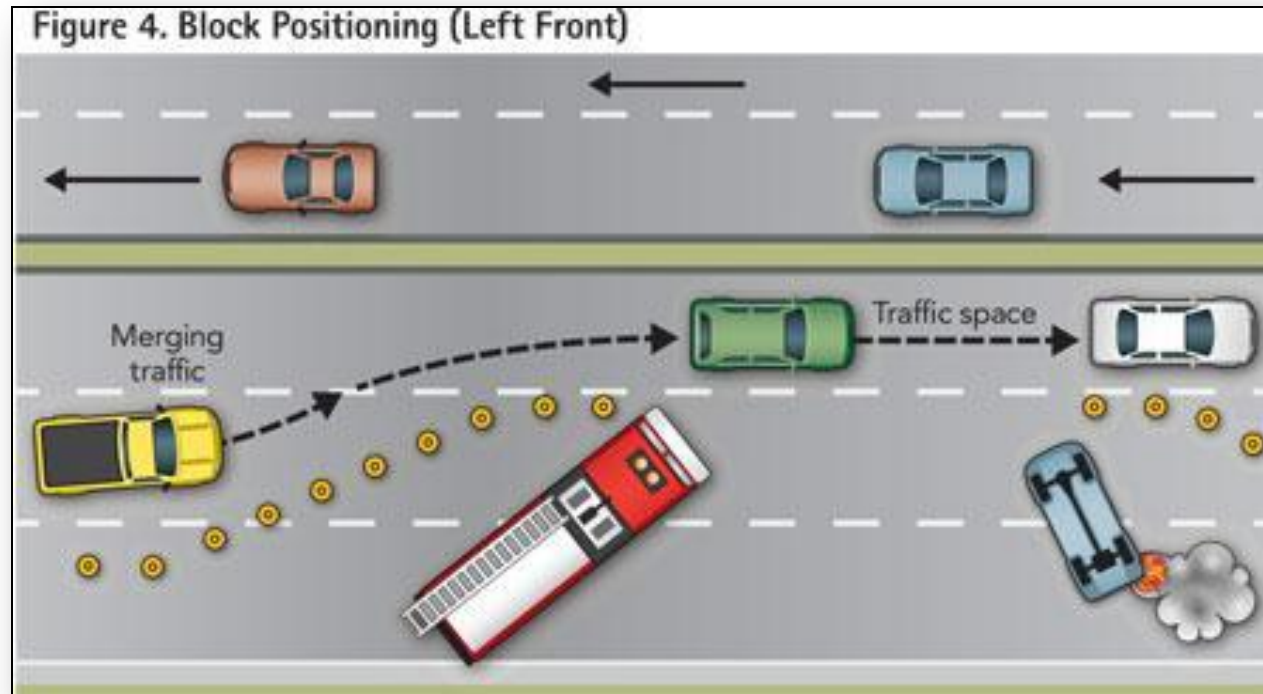
Tactics

- Guard the scene/Guard the Crew
- Create a Safe Zone/Work Zone on side away from traffic
- Keep number of vehicles/staff on scene to a minimum
- Look!!!! Before exiting all vehicles



Tactics

Vehicle Positioning



- Park apparatus at an angle in the direction you want traffic to go
- Keep all apparatus on one side of the road
- Either be completely off the road or take an entire lane



Tactics

Vehicle Positioning

No Safe Zone established:
Personnel and Patient are
exposed to oncoming traffic



Tactics

Vehicle Positioning



The patient loading area is well protected:
Staff has a safe place to work

Advanced Warning Considerations

Tactics

- Designed to advise, warn and instruct
- Gives road users direction to slow down
- Consider speeds and volume when placing warning devices
- Sign is special fluorescent pink-NFPA compliant
- Appropriate for the situation
- Info given in small amounts
- Remember to remove signs when done



Tactics

- Signs
- Flares
- Variable Message Boards
- Public Service Announcements
- DOT Updates



NH DOT Routes
([@NHDOTRoutes](#))

3/24/20, 10:56 AM

TRAFFIC CLEAR: Lee NH 155 near
Captain Smith Road, Randall Road
trees and wires down



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Risk Management Services

Deploying Cones

Tactics



Cones can create a work area. However, deployment requires you to keep an eye on traffic. They provide ***direction***, not ***protection***.

Tactics

Scene Lighting

- Reduce emergency lights. Use blocking mode
- Increase use of amber lenses
- Provide space illumination after dark
- Presence of police vehicles to slow traffic

Scene Environment

Tactics

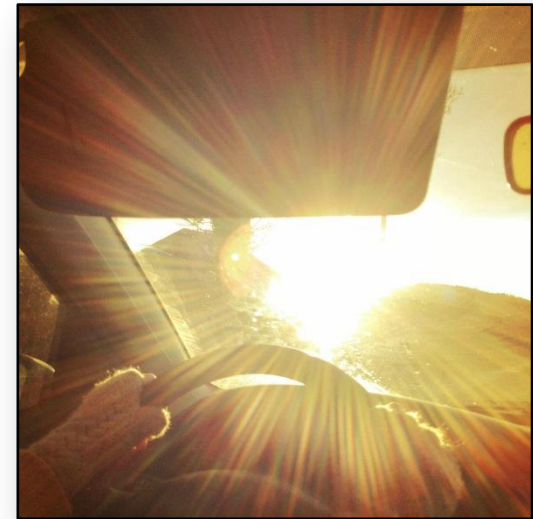


Consider the weather and how it impacts your response.

Tactics

Scene Environment

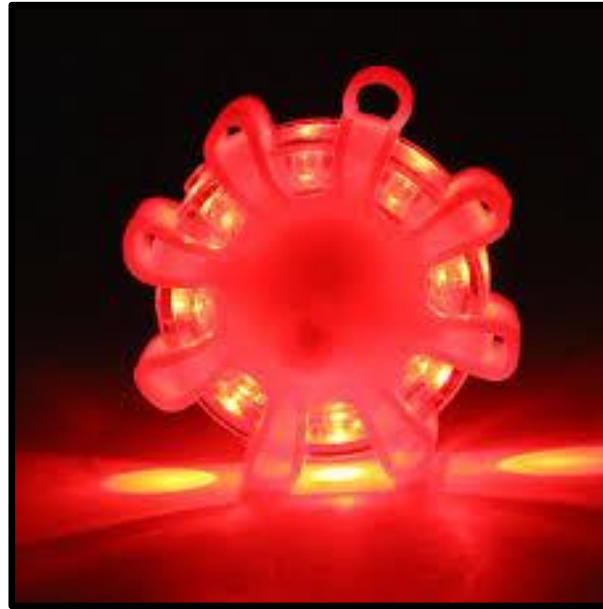
- Road conditions: Ice and snow
 - Keep sand/salt on board for slip prevention
 - Use Traction-Assist devices, micro spikes
- Flares are effective but flammable
- Be aware of smoke/fog/sun glare
- Don't forget pedestrians and onlookers



Tactics

Scene Environment

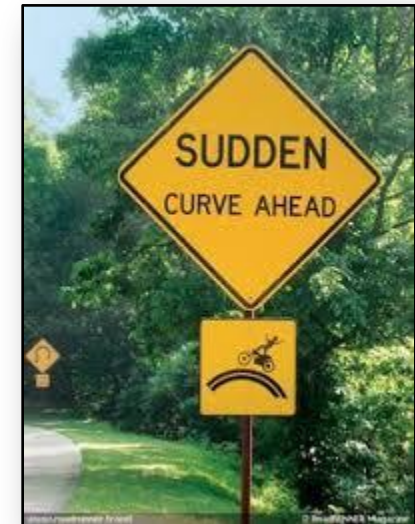
- Non-Sparking Flare Substitutes



Tactics

Be Seen!

- Allow sufficient distance for drivers to see you
- Beware of low light/sun/glare being lost in headlights
- Stay out of road until all vehicles have stopped
- Beware of shadows
- Stand clear of other first responders



Tactics

Be Seen!



Tactics

Be Seen!



Retrofit safety features into all apparatus, old and new

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Risk Management Services

Be Seen!

Tactics

Design lighting to protect the incident scene



Build in space for traffic control equipment



Use highly reflective markings on rear of apparatus

Tactics

Safety Officer

- Not often considered for traffic emergencies
- Should monitor scene hazards and traffic control
- Implement an accountability system at all scenes

In an emergency involving a vehicle that intrudes into the scene, could you identify if any of your crew were under that vehicle?



Tactics

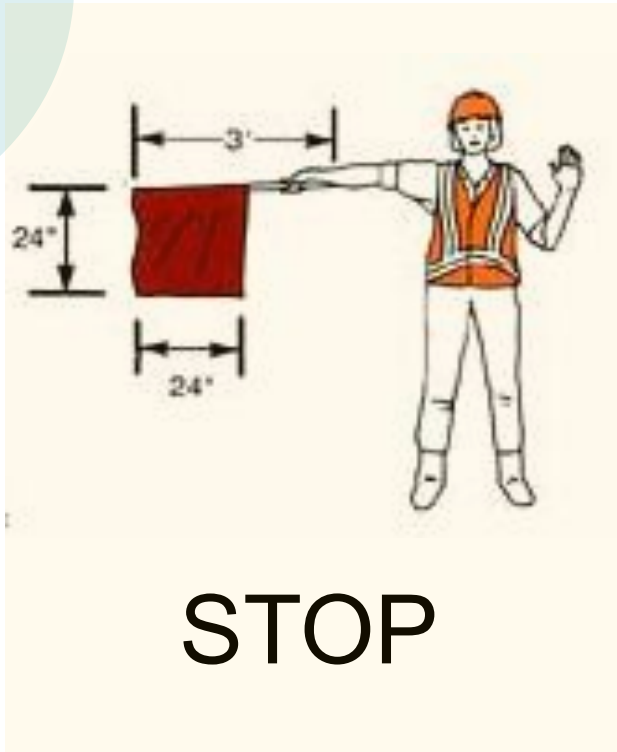
- On Shoulder of Roadway
- Not in an Open Lane of Traffic
- Clearly Visible
- “Have an Out”

Positioning



Tactics

Use the Correct Hand Signal




Beware of Confusing Directions

Tactics





Training



Training

Build Awareness Through Training



Basic Recruit Training- Firefighter I,
Basic EMT Classes

Routine Company/
Department Training

Annual In-Service

Loss Review/FF Close-call

Evaluate apparatus and staff placement along with
procedures during drills and training sessions



Key Points to Remember

- Responsibility rests with us all
- Get the needed equipment
- Use it correctly
- Use uniform signals
- **Emergency Scene Safety is Serious Business**



A night scene of a street fire. Several fire trucks with their ladders extended are positioned along the street. Bright orange and red emergency lights from the trucks illuminate the scene. A crowd of people is gathered on the right side of the street, watching the incident. The overall atmosphere is one of a major emergency response.

Are you part of the problem?

Choose to be part of the solution.



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NH Public Risk Management Exchange

Trust. Excellence. Service.

Risk Management Services

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