

Emergency Operations, SOG 275
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT INCIDENTS.

1. Scope. This standard regulates the placement and positioning of emergency vehicles at a traffic accident scene.
2. General rules for positioning emergency vehicles.
 - A. Apparatus function shall regulate placement. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation guidelines should be utilized. The first arriving fire company should position themselves to maximum advantage and go to work by staging to the right or left hand shoulder just behind the vehicle(s) involved so as not to further obstruct the highway.
 - B. Traffic control needs to be established as soon as possible by placement of traffic cones to divert traffic around the traffic incident safely. A flagman should be placed at the rear of the scene to control the flow of traffic.
 - C. All EMS units shall stage in front of the traffic accident, if possible.
 - D. Second arriving fire company will stage just behind the first fire company, if possible.
 - E. A third fire company will stage approximately 1/8 mile behind the traffic accident scene and deploy signage indicating EMERGENCY SCENE AHEAD.
3. Considerations of apparatus placement at a highway incident.
 - A. Keep one lane of traffic open at all times to keep traffic flowing.
 - B. Do not stage in a manner which will make emergency vehicles exposed to secondary accident.
 - C. Do not become entrapped. Allow adequate room to reposition the apparatus or to depart in an emergency.
 - D. Be aware of scene dangers (electrical wires, fluid spills, fire dangers, air bags, broken glass, jagged metal).
 - E. Allow all tools, hoses and lights to be deployed from the shoulder side of the highway, (out of traffic).