

SAFE VEHICLE POSITIONING



WHAT IS SAFE VEHICLE POSITIONING?

Emergency vehicles arriving at an incident should be positioned in a manner that attempts to protect both the responders performing their duties and road users traveling through the incident scene while minimizing, to the extent practical, disruption of the adjacent traffic flow. Emergency vehicle positions should optimize traffic flow through the incident scene. All emergency vehicles that subsequently arrive should be positioned in a manner that does not interfere with the established temporary traffic flow. MUTCD 11th Edition, Section 6O.01(08)

FHWA TIM SELF-ASSESSMENT

During the annual self-assessment, Nebraska agencies gave lower ratings on questions about having standard policies and procedures on topics like **safe vehicle positioning**.



How can we improve?

- Establish a safe vehicle positioning policy.
- Ensure all TIM stakeholders are trained and understand the policy.
- Regular review and update the police.



Include key safe vehicle positioning procedure components:

- Use MUTCD-compliant temporary traffic control (signs, cones) to establish a safe work space.
- Use lane +1 blocking when appropriate.
- Require safe, quick clearance when opening lanes.
- Promote emergency vehicle lighting discipline. Dim and turn off forward facing lights when appropriate.
- Use larger vehicles for blocking upstream of the incident.

Considerations:

- Proper windshield size-up
- Move it, work it
- Buffer space
- Angled and parallel vehicle blocking
- Advanced warning area
 - Environmental conditions
 - Visibility



Safer for us,
Safer for them!



ESTABLISH A SAFE WORK ZONE



Road maintenance – vehicles equipped with vehicle-mounted attenuators, dynamic message signs (DMS) or arrow boards may be parked upstream to provide advance warning before the transition area, which consists of tapers set up using cones or flares.



Law enforcement – first vehicle on scene establishes initial vehicle blocking upstream, leaving room for larger blocking vehicles as needed.



Fire – larger vehicle, angled to block the scene, provides maximum protection for responders and a visual cue to approaching traffic.



EMS – positioned downstream, with rear doors angled away from traffic. This provides for safe patient handling, patient loading and easy departure from the scene.



Tow – staged downstream, ready to back up and begin vehicle recovery when authorized.



Other resources – anyone who arrives after the TIM area is established is staged downstream before the termination area.



Media – direct media to park in a parking lot or designated staging area. Ensure anyone working in the right-of-way or TIM area is wearing high-visibility safety apparel (HVSA).



QUICK TIPS

As you approach each scene:

- Think tactically about positioning vehicles.
- Watch out for each other.
- Communicate safety concerns.

Nebraska TIM: Safer, Together

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