

## TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT CHAPTER 2: STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

Part 1: Response Guidelines

Subject: Vehicle Extrication

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Effective Date: 02-26-90

Section: 2-1-24

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- 24.01 Purpose. These procedures will establish guidelines to be used at an extrication scene.
- 24.02 Goal. These procedures will be in effect for all members of Township Fire Department operating at the scene of an extrication. This S.O.G. covers the basic steps for milestones to be achieved at vehicle extrication scenes. It should be realized that many different situations can exist at an extrication scene. In some cases, the ingenuity of the rescue crew will be the deciding factor in a successful rescue attempt. At all times, the safety of the rescue crew, patient and bystanders shall be foremost in everyone's mind and actions.
- 24.03 Definition. Vehicle extrication is the procedure used to remove accident victims who are entrapped in wreckage by either the nature of their injuries and/or the entanglement of themselves in the vehicle wreckage and metal. Vehicle extrication procedures may involve the movement of metal from around the entrapped victim, the rescuer's access path or the victim's removal path.
- 24.04 Guideline. In all cases of vehicle entrapment, the primary concern is safety to life. Patient condition, his/her situation, hazards (real and potential), and available resources will influence the methods and speed at which the operation will be accomplished.
- 24.05 It is recognized that the traumatized patient's recovery from injuries is directly influenced by the pre-hospital care and time taken to get that patient to a medical facility. That time is measured from the time of the incident to the time of the patient's arrival at a hospital and the care of a physician.
- 24.06 Upon approach and during the incident, be careful not to disturb any evidence that Law Enforcement may need as part of their investigation.
- 24.07 Ensure that all personnel on scene are wearing departmental, current DOT standard, issued 5 point break-away traffic safety vests.

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24.08 With this in mind, the commander and personnel called to these incidents must use careful, efficient means to accomplish the following in a timely manner:

- A) Establish command.
- B) Survey the scene and triage patients. (This is best accomplished by using the inner/outer survey method).
- C) Check for and control hazards.
- D) As soon as the need for extrication procedures have been established, Command will assure that proper rescue tools are on the scene or En route. He/she must also determine what additional resources may be needed and notify BASE. When making this resource determination, Command should consider, among other things, medical needs, manpower, special tools, transportation needs, and special hazards at the scene.
- E) Establish staging areas for apparatus, personnel and tools as soon as possible. Staging should be located outside, but near, the action circle.
- F) Stabilize the vehicle(s).
- G) Gain access to the patient(s).
- H) Perform primary patient survey, establish an airway and simultaneously establish adequate C-spine immobilization and care (normally handled by First Responders and/or Ambulance Personnel).
- I) Perform controlled movement and/or removal of all metal and/or obstructions in order to properly package and remove the patient without further aggravating the patient's injuries.
- J) Prepare the patient for removal.
- K) Carefully remove the patient with due care to the C-spine, airway, fractures and bleeding.
- L) Prepare the patient for transport without delay.
- M) Secure any equipment used and secure the scene.

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- 24.09 Command procedures must include establishment, transfer, sectorization and staging. Sectorization may be assigned, but are not limited to, extrication, triage, hazard control, tool and resource, crowd control, and transportation sector. Command should strictly control access to the action circle to those persons that are working the extrication, assigned to patient care or controlling on scene hazards. All personnel located inside the action circle should be in full protective gear whenever possible.
- 24.10 On extrication scenes, the overall scene is under control of Command, while patient care is under control of the ranking medical officer. Ultimate responsibility lies with Command, who must use judgment in light of advice from the ranking medical officer.
- 24.11 The requirements for this extrication team are as follows:
- A) Vehicle Extrication Class.
  - B) Entry Level Firefighter.
- 24.12 Equipment is kept in following vehicles:
- A) Station #1 - Squad 15
  - B) Station #2 - Squad 25
  - C) Station #3 - Squad 35
  - D) Station #4 - Squad 45
  - E) Station #5 - Squad 55
- 24.13 Each unit will be automatically backed up according to the corresponding box card for the location of the incident.
- 24.14 Each primary rescue unit shall be accompanied by an engine and tender whose personnel will stay with their vehicle. A pre-connect foam line will be readied for use.
- 24.15 Equipment used as blocking vehicles are to be parked and left unstaffed. Personnel are to stage away from the vehicle.
- 24.15 A minimum of one extrication training session per year will be held.
- 24.16 All units will respond Code 3 unless told differently by first unit on the scene.
- 24.17 Incident Command shall make every effort to return unneeded equipment as soon as possible.