

VEHICLE RESCUE AND EXTRICATION

Purpose:

To establish guidelines for handling vehicle rescue and extrication safely and effectively.

Guidelines:

- A. Request additional or special equipment through PSCC, if necessary.
- B. If commercial trucks are involved, check placarding and take necessary precautions.
- C. Give actual location of incident to dispatcher if other than original reported location.
- D. Law enforcement responds to all reported vehicle accidents. If law enforcement units are at the scene, coordinate with them.

Safety:

- A. All personnel should be in full protective clothing.
- B. Spot apparatus uphill and upwind from the accident scene if possible. Apparatus should be parked between rescuers and oncoming traffic with the parking brake set and wheels turned toward the curb.
- C. Stop all fuel leaks, if possible, and prevent use of flares if fire hazard exists. Hose lines should be in position and charged.
- D. Prior to personnel entering the vehicle, stabilize using cribbing, chock blocks, ropes, vehicle emergency brake, etc.
- E. While awaiting the arrival of law enforcement, you may want to post a guard to watch oncoming traffic.
- F. Overturned vehicles should not be "righted" until patients have been removed.
- G. Do not disconnect battery cables if flammable vapors are present.

Fuel Spills:

- A. The leak should be stopped, if possible, and prevent ignition utilizing hose lines to safeguard patients as well as personnel.
- B. With large fuel spill, a light water or other type of foam may be needed to prevent ignition.
- C. Boone County Emergency Management should be notified anytime more than five gallons has been spilled.

Extrication:

- A. Make sure vehicle is stabilized before personnel enter.
- B. The engine company officer should supervise the extrication operation.
- C. All personnel should wear full protective clothing.