



RUSSELLVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
POLICY MANUAL

Policy Number:
Section:
Original Date:
Revised Date:

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide information on standard tactics and safety considerations when responding to motor vehicle accidents on city streets, limited access highways, and urban intersections.

POLICY

The complexity and severity of motor vehicle accidents varies greatly based on many variables. Dispatchers utilize specific information about the number of vehicles and types of injuries involved in a collision and dispatch the appropriate quantity and type of resources. In general, fire department resources may initially respond to motor vehicle accidents in five different ways:

1. Motor vehicle accidents with injury (In City)
2. Motor vehicle accidents with injury and extrication (In City)
3. Motor vehicle accidents with injury (Out of City)
4. Motor vehicle accidents with injury and extrication (Out of City)
5. Fluid spills from non-injury motor vehicle accidents

Size-Up

When conducting size-up at a motor vehicle accident, it is important to determine the scope of the incident. Oftentimes, vehicles involved in an accident may be parked some distance away from the collision site. Careful attention should be given to determining the number of cars involved and their location, along with any special hazards (e.g. leaking fluids or fires) that might be present. The first arriving unit/company shall transmit a brief initial report immediately upon arrival that includes the following information:

- Quantity of vehicles involved
- Type of damage (minor, moderate, major)
 - Minor – no passenger compartment intrusion
 - Moderate – limited passenger compartment intrusion
 - Major – significant passenger compartment intrusion
- Collision type (head-on, rollover, etc)
- Special hazards (car on fire, leaking fluids, victims in the roadway, extrication likely, etc)
- Lanes Blocked (direction of travel, complete or partial blockage)

Example: *“Engine 1 is on scene of a two-car, head-on, accident with moderate damage, northbound lanes partially blocked.”*

After a thorough size-up of the accident has occurred, a second radio report shall be transmitted that details the following information:

- Quantity of vehicles involved (this number can sometimes change after a more thorough size-up)
- Total number of occupants involved
- Estimate number of patients requiring transport

Approved

Fire Chief



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Example: *"Dispatch from Engine 1, this is a two-car accident with four occupants and one patient."*

Tactical Considerations

The type and complexity of hazards at motor vehicle accidents varies greatly. PPE should be utilized in accordance with the predominant risk of the incident. Traffic control should be prioritized. It is the responsibility of the fire company assigned to these accidents to always assess or prepare for fire suppression activities. In cases where vehicle extrication will take place, a minimum of a hoseline should be deployed and ready for use. When no threat of fire is identified, and no patient entrapment is found, no action is necessary by the company.

Resource Assignments

1. Motor Vehicle Accidents with injury (In City)
 - Closest Engine Company
 - Closest Medic
2. Motor Vehicle Accidents with injury and Extrication (In City)
 - 2 Closest Engine Companies
 - Closest Medic
 - Battalion 1
 - Ladder 1 (Initial Code 1 response, can be upgraded by Battalion 1 at any time or by Company Officer on scene)
3. Motor Vehicle Accidents with injury (Out of City)
 - Closest Engine Company
 - Battalion 1
4. Motor Vehicle Accidents with injury and extrication (Out of City)
 - Closest Engine Company
 - Battalion 1

Note: The On Duty Battalion Chief has the discretion to add resources as needed both inside and outside of the city.

Approved

Fire Chief