


Title:	Vehicle Extrication			
Section:	400 Fire Operations			
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Effective Date:	January 1, 2024	Reviewed Date:		
Authorized By:	Fox River Fire District Chiefs			

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to provide an operational guide for extricating victims from vehicles and to minimize the risk to rescue personnel working at the scene of an emergency.

B. SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to responses involving extrication from vehicles.

C. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

There are no special terms or conditions in this guideline.

D. GUIDELINE

1) Size Up

a) Upon arriving at the scene of a vehicle accident with an entrapment, the officer in charge shall determine the best placement for the responding vehicles to ensure the protection and safety of all personnel operating on the scene. The officer in charge should evaluate the following:

i) The number of vehicles involved

ii) Number of persons involved

iii) Type of vehicles involved such as car, truck, hybrid, alternative fuel vehicles, etc.

iv) Actual fire present

v) Leaking fuel

vi) Presence of vehicle safety systems such as air bags and whether they have deployed

vii) Involvement of electrical power lines or other electrocution hazards

viii) Involvement of any hazardous materials

2) Scene Preparation and Securement

- a) Proper scene preparation before operations begin is critical to the overall success of the operation. Scene preparation should include but is not limited to inner circle, outer circle, traffic control, establishing a tool staging area and providing scene lighting when necessary.
- b) All ignition sources shall be eliminated from the area. Batteries of all vehicles involved shall be disconnected if possible.
- c) Extrication can only begin after the vehicle has been stabilized. In addition a means of fire suppression (1 ¾" hose line or dry chemical fire extinguisher) is deployed and positioned, and all personnel working in the extrication zone (Fire and EMS) have been briefed on the actions that will be undertaken.
- d) Due to the addition of safety restraint systems placed in newer vehicles, it is critical to evaluate and determine what potential systems and their hazards are placed in the vehicle where the extrication takes place.

3) Extrication Process

- a) The Rescue Group Supervisor, working with crew handling patient care, shall determine the best and most efficient means of extrication.
- b) Full protective clothing along with fire or extrication gloves and appropriate eye protection shall be worn; SCBA is an option to consider.
- c) Ensure that the patient and emergency personnel are protected from flying glass, rescue tools and moving metals.
- d) Watch each part of the operation to ensure the operation is completed safely.

4) Safety

- a) The Incident Commander is responsible for the safety of all individuals working in and around the emergency scene.
- b) Reflective safety vests are required to be worn when working in or around the incident scene.
- c) The position of Safety Officer shall be carried out by the Incident Commander until assigned to another individual.

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