

City of Belleville Fire Department

Number: 8003

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Belleville Fire Department to promote the safety of all Personnel while performing operations on highways and roadways by positioning apparatus in a manner that best protects the incident scene and work area.

Date S.O.G. Comes Into Effect: April 29, 2005

Date S.O.G. Revised: May 26, 2017

Date Committee Approved S.O.G.: March 1, 2005

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GUIDELINE

1:00 **Purpose:**

1:01 To provide maximum protection and safety for personnel operating and positioning fire apparatus near moving traffic.

2:00 **Procedures:**

2:01 The Incident Commander shall be responsible for establishing a safe zone and should do this in co-ordination with police were possible.

2:02 First arriving apparatus should establish an initial "Block".

2:03 "Blockers" should be at least 40 m from the working area and positioned on an angle to deflect any high speed impact from the established safe zone to best protect the scene. The front wheels of the apparatus should be turned so as to direct the vehicle off the roadway and not into the safety zone if hit from behind.

2:04 When "Blocking" the incident scene, establish a large enough safe zone to include all personnel, vehicles, extrication work area, patient treatment area, and ambulance loading zone.

THIS GUIDELINE IS NOT EXPECTED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD JUDGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE UNDER UNUSUAL CONDITIONS.

- 2:05 The Highway traffic Act requires “Blockers” to have a Gross Vehicle Weight of 4,500 Kilograms or greater.
- 2:06 Always use red emergency lights, directional traffic indicators (if equipped) and possibly traffic cones to establish advanced warning and adequate transition traffic control (It is recommended that safety cones **not** be used on roadways with speeds greater than 90 km/h). Personnel may choose to use the traffic control stop or slow sign to direct traffic on roadways with speeds of 90km/h or less.
- 2:07 Where possible, Personnel should exit and enter apparatus from the protected side away from the traffic. All personnel exiting the apparatus shall have an approved safety vest on as well as their personal protective equipment while on scene. Personnel wearing an SCBA do not require a safety vest as long as they are working in the safety zone.
- 3:00 **Scope:**
- 3:01 It shall be the responsibility of the Captain/ Officer in charge of each shift to ensure that this guideline is explained and followed.
- 3:02 It shall be the responsibility of **all employees** to understand and adhere to this guideline.

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