



Amherst County Fire/EMS

Standard Operating Guidelines



Subject:	Motor Vehicle Accident
Reference Number:	
Effective Date:	May 1, 2025
Revision Date:	N/A
Signature of Approval:	Chief of Fire/EMS

Purpose: Establish a standardized response plan for motor vehicle accidents

Dangers/Hazards: Major hazards include traffic, debris from crash, and the vehicle(s) involved (crush, fire, etc.)

Procedures:

Fire will be toned for any motor vehicle collision (MVC) that is blocking the roadway, overturned, down an embankment, has fluids leaking, has reports of injury/entrapment, or involves a vehicle carrying any type of hazardous material. EMS will be dispatched with fire for any accident with injuries or if injuries are unknown.

- A brief size-up shall be given by the first-arriving unit on scene. The size-up should include: number of vehicles, extent of damage, and position of vehicles.
 - o Examples of damage are minor, moderate, and heavy.
 - o Examples of positions would be vehicle overturned, vehicle over the embankment, blocking one/both lanes, etc.
- Command shall be established as soon as possible. The IC should be trained to a minimum of the level of work being performed. For example, the IC should be certified in Vehicle Extrication when operating on an entrapment.
- FD Engine should be parked in a blocking position when possible. A blocking position is far enough back for a buffer with the apparatus wheels turned into traffic and away from Fire/EMS personnel. A second FD Engine, tanker, or ladder truck shall be used for a buffer vehicle when responding to an accident on the bypass.
- All personnel operating in or near the roadway shall minimally wear an approved traffic vest and helmet. Any member engaged in extrication or rescue operations should wear full PPE, to include coat, pants, boots, helmet, eye protection, and extrication gloves.
- No POVs shall respond to any MVA on the bypass, unless authorized by a chief officer.
- A handline should be pulled for any vehicle accident that requires extrication.
- An absorbent material should be applied to any fluids that have leaked out

- Extreme caution should be used when electrical lines or poles, or any hazardous materials are involved
- Departments shall have all members participating in traffic control operations complete flagging and traffic control training through VA Department of Transportation (VDOT) or other comparable traffic control safety program.