

	Standard Operating Guideline – West Fargo Fire Department		01.003
	Subject: Operating on Roadways		
	Section: Deployment and Safety		
	Date Authorized: 8/5/2015	Authorized by:	
Date Reviewed: 10/2/2020	Chief Daniel Fuller		

Intent

The intent of this SOG is to establish procedure for operating on a roadway.

References

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1500 Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program

US Department of Transportation Best Practices in Traffic Incident Management (2010)

Definitions

Traffic Vests – the department issued five-point breakaway vest with reflective trim and high visibility colors

High Visibility Jacket – the department issued jacket with reflective trim and high visibility colors

Guideline

1. Safety is paramount when the department is operating on a roadway. For incidents on roadways ie: motor vehicle fires, grass fires, and motor vehicle accidents, the following precautions should be taken.
2. All employees should utilize five-point breakaway vests, which are stored in the apparatus. These vests meet the Department of Transportation standard requiring visibility as well as breakaway action in the case of a employee being struck or dragged by a passing vehicle. The only exception to this case is when employees are actively engaged in firefighting duties. Then, the need for thermal protection outweighs the need for visibility.
3. Apparatus should be parked in a defensive position, angled away from the scene, at a 45-degree angle, towards the middle of the roadway, funneling the flow of traffic around the scene. Ensure that the ambulance or working unit parks in front of the scene if possible, not behind the blocking apparatus.
4. Apparatus should keep all emergency lighting on while in the roadway. If equipped. The “steady flash” pattern should be selected, and at night, the low power option should be used as well.
5. For scenes on divided highways, such as I-94, an additional blocking apparatus may be needed, at the IC’s request. Additional vehicles should be parked in the same manner, with 50 feet of space between them. An early warning vehicle such as Battalion 70 or one of the squads should be used 500’ before the scene to warn upcoming drivers of the incident.
6. For grass and ditch fires, the apparatus maybe parked as far off the roadway as possible. The operator should act as a lookout while other employees are in the ditch.

Operating on Roadways	Deployment and Safety	01.003
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7. The use of electronic LED traffic flares is recommended for nighttime incidents. These flares are located on Engine 76 and Ladder 75 and should be used to funnel traffic into a single lane prior to the incident, approximate 500 feet before the traffic encounters apparatus on the roadway.
8. As soon as possible, units should clear the roadway and restore normal traffic flow. This is reducing the safety concern of both units operating in the roadway and the motoring public.

Operating on Roadways	Deployment and Safety	01.003
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