Dealing with traffic crashes and other incidents in work zones requires the combined skills of many people.

- Police
- Fire
- EMS
- Highway Agency
- Contractor Personnel
- Towing Services
- Coroner/Medical Examiner
- HazMat Specialists

Managing Incidents in Work Zones Often Means...

Difficult Access – Limited Space

Congested Traffic – Many Partners

Pre-incident Planning is critically important

- Establish in advance the use of alternate routes
- Consider traffic mitigation measures and work zone emergency access
- Training and tabletop exercises generate real-world benefits
- Keep first responders updated on project status/schedule
- Some projects pose special traffic issues during incidents – tunnels, long bridges, freeway-to-freeway interchanges
- Consider Queue Warning Vehicles to reduce secondary crashes
- Response plans should match site conditions

Post-incident reviews help ensure good practices are repeated – and shortcomings are not.

WZ-TIM Success is Measurable

- Faster roadway clearance times
- Faster incident clearance times
- Fewer/less severe secondary incidents

First Responder focus should be on Incident Response & Recovery

- **Secure and protect the scene** – assess the situation and coordinate with other first responders to prevent additional injuries and incidents
- **Aid the victims** – arrange transport for anyone needing advanced medical care
- **Manage traffic on-scene** and, if needed, **re-route traffic** – expedited **scene clearance** will allow work zone operations to resume as soon as possible

Many Regulations & Standards Apply

- **Safety & Mobility Pre-Planning** is required for all federally-funded highway construction projects
- **Traffic Control Device** standards for work zones are laid out in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)
- **MUTCD guidance on Emergency Vehicle Lights** and **ANSI standards for High Visibility Clothing** are designed to protect first responder personnel, vehicles and equipment on scene
- The **National Unified Goal (NUG) for Traffic Incident Management** puts the focus on...
  - Responder Safety
  - Quick Clearance
  - Interoperable Communications

NIMS & ICS Protocols Organize Actions

- Everyone works more effectively through integrated command/communications with joint objectives and shared safety and time-saving strategies

Three Incident Complexity Levels

- **Minor Incidents** – Less than 30 minutes
- **Intermediate Incidents** – 30 minutes to 2 hours
- **Major Incidents** – More than 2 hours

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Working Together: Coordinated Response to a Generic Work Zone Incident

CRASH OR OTHER INCIDENT OCCURS

- Call 911 to report incident

Assess situation and request additional resources as necessary

- Secure and protect the incident scene
- Assist in securing and protecting incident scene
- Protect back of traffic queue if requested
- Postpone deliveries of construction materials

- Suppress fires
- Give first aid to victims
- Manage traffic and bystanders
- Provide temporary traffic control devices
- Provide additional temporary traffic control

- Extricate trapped victims
- Provide emergency medical care
- Assess injuries and provide advanced medical care
- Assess hazardous materials

- Transport victims to hospital
- Examine deceased victims and pronounce death
- Contain and stabilize hazardous materials
- Coordinate hazmat cleanup with natural resources dept

- Supervise scene clearance
- Remove vehicles that are blocking traffic lanes
- Remove medical waste
- Clean up hazardous materials

- Collect evidence
- Assist people with disabled vehicles
- Assist with incident clearance
- Remove damaged vehicles

- Remove debris from pavement
- Restore typical work zone traffic control
- Resume typical work zone traveler information
- Resume typical construction operations

Issue citations

LEGEND

- Contractor
- Highway Agency
- Police
- Fire Dept
- EMS
- Coroner/ Med Exm
- Towing Service
- Hazmat Specialist
What all