

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines
Special Operations

Special Operations, SOG 4.02

VEHICLE RESCUE and EXTRICATION

I. Procedures

- 1) Request dispatcher to respond additional or special equipment, if necessary.
- 2) If commercial trucks are involved, check placarding and/or manifest and take necessary precautions. Hazardous chemicals are present at all vehicle accidents.
- 3) Give actual location of incident to dispatcher if other than original reported location.

II. Safety

- 1) All rescue personnel should be in full protective clothing and wearing eye protection.
- 2) Spot apparatus uphill and upwind from accident scene if possible. Apparatus should be parked between rescuers (to protect the life safety of rescuers and victims) and oncoming traffic if possible, with parking brake set and wheels chocked if on grade. **No member will move an apparatus after blocking traffic and/or when requested by law enforcement, until approval of the Officer-in-Charge. Apparatus will not be moved until there is no longer a life safety hazard to rescuers and victims.**
- 3) Stop all fuel leaks if possible, and prevent use of flares if fire hazard exists. 1 ¾” hose line should be positioned and charged for extrication and/or possible fire conditions. However, the Officer-in-Charge may ask for a proper size dry chemical extinguisher if fire risks are minimal.
- 4) If possible, prior to rescue personnel and/or EMS personnel entering vehicle(s), stabilize the vehicle(s) using cribbing, chock blocks, vehicle stabilizer jacks, vehicle emergency brake, etc. Air lifting devices are not stabilizing.
- 5) Overturned vehicles (onside or on top) should not be “righted” (i.e. pushed or pulled onto wheels) until patients have been removed.
- 6) Use caution when disconnecting (or cutting) battery cables if flammable vapors are present or fuel leaking. It may be better to leave connected to avoid sparks. Negative battery cable shall be removed first. (Battery cables should only be cut in the most extreme circumstance.)
- 7) Exposed jagged and/or sharp edges in the patient area or working area should be padded.

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III. Fuel Spills

- 1) Rescue personnel should try to stop all fuel leaks, if possible, and prevent ignition. If unable to stop the leak consider diking, absorbing, etc. to contain run-off.
- 2) With a fuel spill, a light water or other appropriate foam may be needed to prevent ignition.

IV. Extrication

- 1) Make sure vehicle is stabilized before any type of prying or movement of vehicle.
- 2) Take appropriate precautions to prevent patient and/or EMS injury while extricating.
- 3) Officer-in-Charge should supervise and coordinate the extrication operation.

V. Operational Considerations

- 1) Officer-in-Charge shall coordinate with Medic-in-Charge concerning patient care. May need to or assign personnel to setup a Helicopter landing zone.
- 2) Officer-in-Charge should coordinate with law enforcement personnel concerning traffic control and any other law enforcement function.
- 3) Safety should be foremost in the minds of all members during emergency operations.