

# Monroe Fire Department

## Standard Operating Guidelines Extrication Policy



**PURPOSE:** To establish guidelines for handling vehicle rescue and extrication safely and effectively.

**POLICY:** In the event of a vehicle rescue or extrication, the following guidelines have been established.

### PROCEDURES

Request dispatcher to respond additional or special equipment, if necessary.

If commercial trucks are involved, check placarding and take necessary precautions.

Give actual location of incident to dispatcher if other than original reported location.

Request Police Department units to respond to the scene if they are not already there. If police units are at the scene, coordinate with them.

Cancel any apparatus not needed to prevent congestion at the accident scene.

### SAFETY

All personnel performing extrication should be in full protective clothing including safety glasses.

Spot apparatus uphill and upwind from accident scene if possible. Apparatus should be parked between rescuers and oncoming traffic with parking brake set and wheels turned toward curb.

Stop all fuel leaks, if possible, and prevent use of flares if fire hazard exists. Hose lines should be positioned and charged if requested by command. If hose lines are not required, one firefighter will stand ready with a dry chemical extinguisher and pressurized water can for the duration of the extrication, and rescue.

Prior to rescue personnel entering vehicle, stabilize the vehicles using cribbing, step chocks, rescue jacks, ropes, vehicle emergency brake, etc.

While awaiting arrival of police units, you may want to post a guard to watch oncoming traffic on busy highways. Additional arriving fire units will control traffic as assigned.

Steps shall be taken to protect the patients and responders by blocking and/or closing roadway. Blocking and shielding should be accomplished according to the Highway safety SOG.

Overtured vehicles should not be "righted" until patients have been removed.

Do not cut battery cables if airbags have not deployed, and patients are in vehicle unless instructed to do so.

### **FUEL SPILLS**

Should stop leak, if possible, and prevent ignition utilizing hose lines to safeguard patients as well as rescue personnel.

With large fuel spill, a light water or other type foam may be needed to prevent ignition.

### **EXTRICATION**

Make sure vehicle is stabilized before rescue personnel enter.

Officer on first arriving engine should supervise the extrication operation and function as inner circle command.

The officer on the second arriving engine company will function as outer circle command and accomplish other tasks as assigned by Incident Command.

All personnel should wear protective clothing.

### **OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Officer in charge shall coordinate with rescue squad personnel concerning patient care.

Officer in charge should coordinate with police personnel concerning traffic control and any other police function required.

Safety should be foremost in the mind of the officer concerning emergency operations.

The apparatus operator (*S5 or S6*) shall always remain with the vehicle and act as safety spotters while highway operations are continuing. The operator should not become involved with extrication activities.

**Implementation:** This policy has been approved by the Officers of the Monroe Fire Department and the Monroe Common Council. This policy, and all adopted procedures, provide a guideline for operations within the Monroe Fire Department. Adoption of these guidelines in no way restricts the incident commander, department administration or the Monroe Common Council from modifying operations or implementing exceptions to policy in the interest of safety, efficiency and harmony within the organization. It shall remain in effect until withdrawn or modified by the department.

**Effective Date:** December 2, 2014