

Delaware County Emergency Medical Service Standard Operating Guidelines

Subject	Effective	Supersedes	This Sheet	Total
Personal Protective / Safety Gear	July 01, 2008	All	1	2

This guideline is to provide guidance for personnel responding to vehicle collisions, or other incidents that require emergency operations in public roadways or any other hazardous areas, to assure crew and patient safety, and to provide rapid, efficient quality patient care.

PROTECTIVE GEAR & REFLECTIVE SAFETY VESTS

Prior to the arrival of the scene of any reported motor vehicle collisions, non-driving personnel shall don their full protective turnout gear, to include turnout pant, turnout coat, protective eye-wear, helmet, extrication-style gloves and reflective safety vests. No DCEMS personnel shall enter into the passenger space of a vehicle having been involved in a motor vehicle collision to render patient care without having first donned their full protective gear. The only exception to this guideline shall be when donning protective gear would delay the care in the case of an imminently life-threatening injury. In this circumstance, as soon as the DCEMS personnel who are providing care without their protective gear can be replaced with those who are wearing their properly applied protective gear, the switch shall be made.

Dangers that may be encountered on an emergency scene, and must be considered should include, but not be limited to the following, in which full PPE with eye protection and reflective safety vests should be worn:

- Damaged Utility Services
- Ignition Sources
- Operation of Extrication Equipment
- Leaking Fuels
- Arcing Equipment
- Vehicles Being Driven Through Or Near The Emergency Scene
- Unstable Vehicles
- Flying Objects
- Leaking Fluids
- Undeployed Airbags
- Broken / Flying Glass

Once the incident is sized up by the EMS Company Officer, EMS Captain or Incident Commander, a determination must be made as to whether or not the driver of the medic vehicle needs to don their protective clothing, or whether personnel who are in turnout clothing may “dress down.” At all times, the safety of our personnel must be given the highest consideration, and must NEVER be jeopardized for comfort and convenience.

Reflective safety vests SHALL be worn at ALL times by ALL department members operating on the scene of motor vehicle collisions, or on any emergency scene that takes place in or alongside a roadway, regardless of the time of day, regardless of the level of protective turnout gear being worn. Please remember a very simple rule regarding the reflective safety vests...

“If your feet are on the street, your vest is on your chest. Period.”

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SAFETY REMINDERS ON ROADWAY RESPONSES:

- ✓ Always maintain an acute awareness of the high-risk. Never trust moving traffic. Always look before you step.
- ✓ Always position apparatus to protect the scene, patients, emergency personnel, and provide a protected work area; angle apparatus at 45 degrees away, allow enough distance to prevent a moving vehicle from knocking apparatus into the work area.
- ✓ At intersections, block all exposed sides. Where apparatus is limited in numbers, prioritize the blocking from the most critical to the least critical.
- ✓ During daytime operations, leave all emergency lights ON to provide warning to drivers. For nighttime operations, turn apparatus headlights OFF while parked on scene.
- ✓ Crews should safely exit the curb side or non-traffic side of the vehicle whenever possible.

FIRE RESPONSES:

While Delaware County EMS recognizes that each mutual aid fire department utilizes our companies in a slightly different capacity, some level of operational standardization is necessary.

Prior to the arrival of the scene of any reported fire incident, regardless of mutual aid agency, non-driving personnel shall don their protective turnout gear, to include turnout coat, protective eye-wear, helmet, and extrication style gloves. Once the crew has arrived on scene, the driver shall also don his/her gear to the same level as outlined above. Upon the DCEMS crew reporting to the fire ground's Incident Command, the Incident Commander may or may not advise the DCEMS crew as to whether or not the crew needs to remain in their protective gear, and if so, to what level.

For the roles and responsibilities of DCEMS crews while on operational fire grounds, refer to the DCEMS Standard Operating Guideline titled "EMS Response to Fire Calls."

Issuing Authority:



DCEMS Chief Rob Farmer

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Date