

Safe, Quick Clearance General Talking Points

Talking Points for Chiefs for Municipal Governments

- In 2019, 18 law enforcement officers, 9 fire/EMS, 14 tow and 3 mobile mechanics were recorded as being struck by a vehicle and died in the line of duty, accounting for a total of 44 responders.¹
- **20,000:** The average number of first responders injured annually in the U.S. while responding to traffic incidents.²
- Quick clearance directly increases the safety of all responders by minimizing their exposure to adjacent passing traffic, reduces the probability of secondary incidents, and relieves overall congestion levels and delay.”³
- In our community, **[insert number of fatalities]** people died last year in road traffic crashes. Of those, **[insert number of fatalities for law enforcement and responders]** were law enforcement and other responders.
- Law enforcement supports the use of traffic incident management applications for unplanned traffic incidents.⁴
- Law enforcement supports committing resources to the planning and coordination process to aid in quick clearance strategies and Traffic Incident Management curriculum.⁵ (2015 Resolution)
- Each year, 1.35 million people are killed, and 50 million are injured in road traffic crashes around the world.⁶
- The annual economic cost of motor vehicle crashes in the U.S. is estimated to nearly \$242 billion.⁷
- “Improving traffic incident management is one way to reduce congestion as traffic incidents account for approximately 25 percent of total congestion on U.S. highways.”⁸

¹ ResponderSafety.com, “2019 Emergency Responder Struck-by-Vehicle Fatalities.”

https://d35c9cxt8mg8m.cloudfront.net/Downloads/04e633ac-9666-48d6-9aee-0ba196f4850a/10/2019_12_31_Responder-Struck-By-Fatalities_Year-End-Totals.pdf?response-content-disposition=attachment. Accessed on January 8, 2020.

² “Public Resources,” Arizona Traffic Incident Management. <https://tim.az.gov/node/4700>

³ Lance E. Dougald, et al., *Traffic Incident Management Quick Clearance Guidance and Implications*, (Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT): Virginia Transportation Research Council, February 2016), 1.

⁴ IACP, “Quick Clearance of Roadway Incidents,” (October 2015), <https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/2018-08/2015Resolutions.pdf>.

⁵ Ibid IACP.

⁶ World Health Organization (WHO). *Global Status Report on Road Safety 2018*. December 2018. [accessed January 23, 2020]. Available from URL: https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_safety_status/2018/en/.”

⁷ Advocates for Highway & Auto Safety, *17th Annual Roadmap of State Highway Safety Law*, accessed on January 24, 2020. <https://saferoads.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Advocates-for-Highway-and-Auto-Safety-2020-Roadmap-of-State-Highway-Safety-Laws.pdf>

⁸ Ibid Dougald, et al.

Talking Points for Chiefs for Community Education

- We all have a responsibility to minimize the impact of traffic incidents within our community. You, the public play the largest role in the safety of our community.
- In 2019, 18 law enforcement officers, 9 fire/EMS, 14 tow and 3 mobile mechanics were recorded as being struck by a vehicle and died in the line of duty, accounting for a total of 44 responders.⁹
- If you are involved in a crash and there are no injuries, move your car to a safe place, out of the travel lanes.¹⁰
- When a crash occurs, the likelihood of a secondary crash increases exponentially, which increases the risk to motorists and responder lives, as well as making it more difficult for responders to arrive and depart a scene.¹¹
- The law requires that when you see flashing lights ahead of you, slow down; move over if you can do so safely; and switch to a lane that's not immediately next to the emergency vehicle, if possible.¹² Violating the move over law will get you a ticket.
- Be aware of your surroundings, be alert and yield to additional responding vehicles.
- Help spread the word among your community, family, friends, and on social media to #MoveOver.
- Recurring and non-recurring delays caused disrupted time with family and friends equating to 6.9 billion hours annually—over 51 hours per commuter.¹³
- Unpredictable travel time can adversely affect worker performance, including tardiness, absenteeism, decrease in concentration, exhaustion, and stress.¹⁴
- Over 50 percent of motorists' delays are attributed to crashes and vehicle breakdowns.¹⁵
- Issues related to traffic are one of the most common complaints received by law enforcement executives.

⁹ ResponderSafety.com, "2019 Emergency Responder Struck-by-Vehicle Fatalities."

https://d35c9cxt8mg8m.cloudfront.net/Downloads/04e633ac-9666-48d6-9aee-0ba196f4850a/10/2019_12_31_Responder-Struck-By-Fatalities_Year-End-Totals.pdf?response-content-disposition=attachment. Accessed on January 8, 2020.

¹⁰ Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Department of Transportation, Traffic Incident Management Poster, https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/eto_tim_pse/timtoolbox/products/tim_poster.pdf. Accessed on January 27, 2020.

¹¹ Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Highway Administration Focus States Initiative: Traffic Incident Management Performance Measures Final Report. Traffic Incident Management Performance Measurement Presentation. <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop10010/presentation.htm> (Accessed on January 21, 2020.)

¹² National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), U.S. Department of Transportation, *Several States Report a Spike in Drivers Crashing Into Police*, <https://www.nhtsa.gov/several-states-report-spike-drivers-crashing-police>. Accessed on January 27, 2020.

¹³ Ibid Culotta et al.

¹⁴ Kalle Culotta, et al., "Does Travel Time Reliability Matter?" (FHWA-HOP-19-062), (Washington, D.C.: October 2019), 4. <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop19062/fhwahop19062.pdf>

¹⁵ Andrew Meese, *Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) Recommendations Report*, (Transportation Planning Board, Washington, DC, February 20, 2019), 10-11.