Whether responding to a single-vehicle incident, or a multiple vehicle crash, take the following steps into consideration. This roll call outlines considerations recommended for law enforcement when arriving first on the scene of a traffic incident. Always follow your agency’s policies. The below talking points are designed to be given during roll call to reinforce key information when responding and setting a scene of a traffic incident and assist officers in applying this knowledge to their role as first responders in their community.

**Arriving First and Setting the Scene**

- Maintain a safe distance
  - Considerations on arrival, weather conditions, and visibility
  - Hazmat presence
- Block the lanes
  - Provide a block with your vehicle to protect the scene, those involved, and other emergency responders.¹
- Assess the scene
  - Secure the scene for responder and motorist safety. Set up flares and/or cones at an appropriate distance to afford motorists time to slow down and adjust to changes in traffic patterns.
- Put on your vest
  - Wear your high-visibility vest. Wearing high-visibility vests significantly improves visibility of an officer on scene.
- Communicate – be clear and concise
  - Confirm location
  - Number, type, and condition of vehicles
  - Is tow truck needed?
  - Relay special circumstances – is the vehicle in a ditch, overturned, if lanes are blocked, etc.?
  - When possible send pictures. This quickly provides information to towers on what type of vehicle will need to be dispatched to the scene.
  - Apparent injuries
  - What lanes/roads are blocked
  - What you need – e.g. detours
  - How others should approach
- Render aid
  - Check for injuries, provide emergency medical assistance until support arrives.
- Investigate
- Coordinate and maintain the scene
  - Coordinate with other responders as they arrive on scene.
- Restore traffic flow

¹ International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), They Don’t See You (August 2014).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItUrLV7eutg&feature=youtu.be