

Vehicle Accident with Extrication

CHAPTER 8.7

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Approved by: Chief of Fire Rescue

Goal

Disentanglement from and/or removal of a vehicle from its occupant/s.

Objectives

Initial Size Up

Recognize any hazards in and around vehicle.

Make patient contact and determine total number of patients and their condition.

Determine what additional resources you will need and notify dispatch

Establish Command

Notify incoming units of the current size-up.

Make incoming units aware of all hazards.

Give vehicle placement and job assignments to units before they arrive on scene.

Establish Perimeters

Establish a "Hot Zone" and a "Cold Zone" to identify areas for specific tasks and/or functions. **Anyone in the Hot Zone is to be in full Class D PPE** (boots, pants, jacket, helmet, gloves)

Establish a tool staging area for extrication equipment.

Establish a rehab area.

Vehicle Stabilization

Secure the vehicle in place using cribbing, wedges, rope and/or struts. **The vehicle must be stabilized before making any type of access to the patient.**

Occupant Access/Preparation

Establish physical contact with occupants, protect them from flying glass and remove seatbelts.

Glass Removal

Eliminate necessary windows and/or windshield.

Activator and Pre-tensioner Assessment

Removal of the interior plastic trim to locate airbag and seatbelt components.

Occupant Packaging

Provide medical treatment as indicated including cervical spine immobilization, wound care, venous access etc.

Extrication

Have a plan(s) on how to remove the vehicle from around the patient (i.e. door removal, dash roll, roof removal, etc.).

Have a charged hose line on the ground prior to starting extrication.

If initial plan is taking too long or not working, stop, re-evaluate, establish new plan.

Occupant Removal

Remove all vehicle occupants.

Safety Considerations

Personal Protective Equipment

The "Class D" uniform ensemble is required for all personnel inside the extrication activities "Hot Zone". Fire suppression rated gloves may be exchanged for other types of hand protection such as leather work gloves, extrication, and technical rescue or "mechanic" gloves or other appropriate hand coverings providing the gloves meet NFPA 1951: Standard on Protective Ensembles for Technical Rescue Incidents, standards. The technical rescue helmet with goggles may be substituted for the fire suppression helmet.

Vehicle Traffic

Awareness of vehicles and machinery operating near the extrication site is paramount. Appropriate apparatus placement will reduce but not eliminate the potential for injury to those working the incident. A "spotter" should be assigned if adequate personnel are present. Placement of traffic cones may assist motorists navigating through the area. Ideally, law enforcement personnel should provide traffic control and traffic should be stopped if conditions warrant.

Hazard Recognition

Initial arriving personnel are responsible for identifying potential hazards and relaying this information to other responding apparatus. Low hanging power lines, weakened structures, leaking fluids, downed trees, hazardous materials placards, livestock, swift water, lightning and traffic are just a few. Consideration of these conditions will dictate the approach to the incident and the tactics to be employed.

Personnel Conditioning

Extrication activities are physical and demanding. Prolonged scene times can lead to exhaustion and mental fatigue. All personnel should monitor themselves for signs of weakness and deteriorating performance. A rotation of personnel should be established when extended scene times are suspected. An Incident Safety Officer and Rehabilitation Area should be designated early in the incident