

STATEWIDE TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT QUICK CLEARANCE FOR SAFETY & MOBILITY

*In Promotion of New Hampshire State Statutes, the
Department of Transportation (DOT) & Department of Safety (DOS)
have entered into an Interagency Memorandum of Understanding.*

Highlights of the memorandum are as follows:

Policy Statement: To do on an urgent basis whatever is reasonable to:

- reduce the risk to roadway users and public safety responders
- prevent secondary crashes and delays associated with incidents,
- protect the environment, and
- protect the public health.

Therefore, the agencies agree that:

- roadways will not be restricted to traffic any longer than is absolutely necessary, and
- roadways will be cleared of damaged vehicles, spilled cargo, debris or other hindrances to the flow of traffic as quickly as possible.

Incident Command System:

The incident commander shall:

- request the response of any other agency or vendor as early as possible,
- consider the potential of secondary impacts away from the incident scene,
- direct the responders at the scene to deploy equipment, personnel, and emergency lighting in a manner that will result in the least restriction of traffic movement.

Law Enforcement Investigations:

- At the scene of non-injury collisions, law enforcement shall be encouraged to act to quickly relocate the vehicle(s) from the travel lanes and conduct investigations as far from the roadway as practical.
- Non-critical portions of the investigation may be delayed until lighter traffic conditions allow completion of those tasks.
- Law enforcement personnel shall encourage and assist other emergency responders in clearing incident scenes.
- Law enforcement personnel shall close only the minimum number of lanes.

Avoidance of Lane Blockage:

- When one or more lanes of a roadway is blocked, law enforcement shall be encouraged to call a towing vendor as quickly as possible.
- Law enforcement shall be encouraged to seek the assistance of DOT or DES representatives.
- If no towing vendor is able to immediately or fully respond to the incident, DOT shall be contacted to dispatch such heavy equipment and personnel as may be required to complete the reopening of the roadway.
- Vehicles on access controlled roadways shall be removed as soon as possible from the traveled way.

Additional Incident Management Guidelines:

- Law enforcement shall be encouraged to coordinate with DOT to set up appropriate traffic control, establish alternative routes, and restore the roadway to normal conditions as soon as possible.
- Information shall be provided to media outlets to advise potential road users of serious incidents, and strategies to avoid delay.
- All parties will document their response in order to measure their performance.

Post Incident Reviews and Continuous Improvement:

- The parties agree to meet periodically to discuss experiences with incident management and to work toward improvements.
- The parties will meet for a debriefing within ten (10) working days of a major incident to identify opportunities for improvement in procedures, training, or the allocation of resources.
- The parties pledge to work together to identify, acquire and deploy new technologies and new operating procedures that might reduce the time required to identify and respond to incidents, and restore roadways to normal operation conditions.
- The parties agree to actively promote the policy of “quick clearance”.

In working together, the DOT and DOS look forward to promoting quick clearance of traffic incidents in order to reduce the risk to the traveling public and public safety responders.