TOLEDO FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

C-32 Expressway And Turnpike Emergencies

Emergency Manual

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Policy/Procedure

1. While responding to an emergency on a roadway such as an expressway or turnpike, apparatus operators shall consider approaching from opposing directions, paying close attention to the availability of water sources in the vicinity of the emergency.

2. The first arriving apparatus on the scene shall give a condition report, establish Command, and notify other responding units of the best direction from which to approach the scene.

3. Command shall request additional equipment, such as Water Tankers, Foam Units, or additional Engines, early in the incident, as needed.

4. On major incidents that may block or tie up the expressway for long periods of time, Command shall direct Dispatch to notify the Ohio State Highway Patrol and ODOT.

5. Command shall order the establishment of fire lines, if necessary, and direct Dispatch to alert the news media if the area will be tied up for a considerable time.

6. When an accident occurs on an elevated ‘Clover Leaf’, underpass, or overpass, crews shall consider the use of ground or aerial ladders to aid in moving victims and equipment.

7. If access to the scene is deemed to be problematic for transport units, consideration shall be given for the request of air transport. A helicopter will need approximately a 75’ x 75’ clear area to land. Command shall consider that multiple aircraft may be required to meet the needs of the incident.

If requesting air transport, Command shall assign one member to act as the Landing Zone Supervisor, who will signal wind direction and point out hazards to the aircraft pilot during the aircraft’s approach and departure.

Note: Water supply will be an issue at all major fire on expressways or turnpikes. All arriving crews should consider the location of available water during their approach to and size-up of the incident. As fire damage to an overpass may restrict its use for long periods of time or cause costly repair, Command shall consider directing all fire suppression efforts to protection of such exposures.

See Also:

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