

RESPONSE & INVESTIGATION

Law Enforcement Perspective

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RESPONSE GOALS

Law Enforcement & Industry goals typically share similarities but do not always align.


Law Enforcement

- Preservation of life is #1
- Prevent further exposure to public
- Protect the scene
- Investigate (Determining factors) (Causation)
- Reconstruct (if needed)
- Vehicle Inspection
- Removal of involved vehicles
- Opening the roadway
- Enforcement action?
- Collision report

INDUSTRY

- Injuries?
- How bad is our equipment damaged?
- Other parties involved?
- **Product loss?**
- Environmental impact?
- Customer notification
- Spill response
- Legal liability
- **COST**

5 STEP PROCESS

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1. RESPONSE
 2. SCENE PROTECTION
 3. INVESTIGATION
 4. RECOVERY
 5. DOCUMENTATION

1 - RESPONSE

It all starts with the initial call, a commercial vehicle has been involved in a rollover collision, what's next?

Ask the right questions

- How many vehicles are involved?
- Injuries?
- Fatality?
- Hazardous Material?
- Associated risk / hazard
- Placards present?
- Fire?
- Roadway blocked?



Coordination with other responders

- EMS
- FIRE
- RECOVERY
- CORONER
- INVOLVED COMPANY

2 – SCENE PROTECTION

Preventing a bad situation from getting worse....

Law Enforcement

- Roadway closure
- Traffic diversions
- Evacuations (haz-mat, fire)
- Perimeters
- Controlled access

Roadblocks

- Road closures may prevent you from getting to your driver.
- Traffic diversions could delay response time.
- Perimeters / controlled access may prevent you from entering the scene of the crash

Statistically, if a secondary collision occurs, the severity is greater.

3 - INVESTIGATION

Law Enforcement

- Driver interviews
- Witness statements
- Dash cam review?
- Scene analysis
- Photos
- Measurements
- Reconstruction
- Equipment Inspection – Level 1
- Establish contributing factors
- Causation

4 – RECOVERY

Law Enforcement

- Getting the roadway open as quickly as possible is high priority for law enforcement.
- Cost typically not a determining factor from LE perspective.
- Can take minutes, hours or even days.
- No preference on recovery company.
- Revolving recovery list.
- Equipment may be placed on legal hold.
- Equipment may be damaged more severely during recovery process

5 – DOCUMENTATION

Law Enforcement

- Collision reports can take 3 hour to 3 weeks to complete depending on the complexity of the situation.
- Often times, required or pertinent information may not be known on the scene of the collision and has to be collected at a later date.
- Scenes are reconstructed after the fact in some situations based upon initial measurements.
- Vehicle inspections, in more severe collisions are often completed off site
- Collisions with injuries require interviews with involved parties, when occupants leave the scene via ambulance, interviews have to be conducted at the hospital.

COLLABORATION

Your efforts, as a company representative and the efforts of first responders should compliment one another.

1ST Responders

- Trained Properly?
- Knowledgeable?

Industry

- Trained Properly?
- Knowledgeable?

POST-COLLISION

- READ, your completed collision report.
 - INSPECT, for errors
 - VERIFY, facts
 - CONDUCT, your own internal investigation.
 - BE, prepared
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- Law Enforcement officers / troopers make mistakes. That mistake may be a determining factor if faced with legal action down the road.

THANK YOU!

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