# **RESPONSE & INVESTIGATION**

Law Enforcement Perspective

Beau Mosley, CDS



### **RESPONSE GOALS**

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



- 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

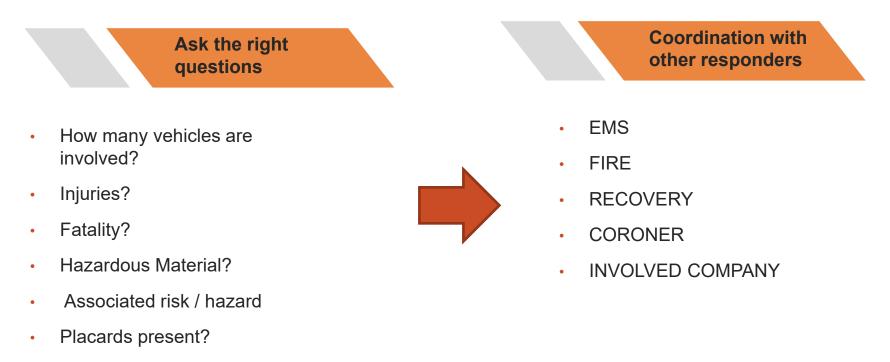
### **5 STEP PROCESS**



- 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?



- Fire?
- Roadway blocked?

# **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



#### 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.



### **POST-COLLISION**

- READ, your completed collision report.
- INSPECT, for errors
- VERIFY, facts
- CONDUCT, your own internal investigation.
- BE, prepared
- 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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