

2022 FIREFIGHTER SAFETY STAND DOWN



June 23, 2022

Traffic Incident Management

[NFPA 1091 Standard for TIMS](#)



There are an untold number of incidents in which responders have been struck by vehicles while working on roadway incidents. The roadway is one of the more dangerous work environments for emergency responders to operate in because conditions can go from being totally benign to total chaos in just a matter of seconds.

The best thing a crew can do is put themselves in a defensive position by using vehicles to block the roadway. This may not be a popular solution if a police officer has an ambition to keep traffic flowing. In their defense, keeping traffic flowing may improve safety and reduce the likelihood of a secondary incident upstream. However, the safety of responders should never take secondary priority to keeping traffic flowing.

When operating on the roadway, our minds should always be on the drivers who, for one reason or another, don't seem to see us, or are motivated to get through the accident scene because they can't be inconvenienced with a delay. There are multiple plausible explanations as to why drivers hit emergency vehicles and first responders, including:

1. General inattentiveness
2. Visual impairment
3. Ill or infirmed
4. Distracted
5. Texting
6. Talking on a cell phone
7. Performing other activities while driving
8. Impairment (drugs or alcohol)
9. Fatigue
10. Ice
11. Hydroplane
12. Gawking
13. Blinded by bright lights



Electric Vehicle Fires are a Threat



- [Episode 21 – Situational awareness lessons shared by a first responder struck by a car](#)
- [Episode 235 – Life changing apparatus accident](#)
- [Episode 99 – A tragic tale of distracted driving](#)
- [Episode 286 – A near-miss while responding](#)
- [Episode 387 – Trooper Down on the Roadway](#)
- [Episode 380 – Improving Responder Safety on the Roadway](#)

