SAFE VEHICLE POSITIONING

What is safe vehicle positioning?
Tactically positioning responder vehicles on-scene for protection during incident response and safe traffic flow.

FHWA TIM SELF-ASSESSMENT

Nebraska scored lower on tactical questions about having standard policies and procedures on topics like **safe vehicle positioning**.

How can we improve?
- Does your agency have a procedure?
- Does your procedure need revisions or updates?

Include key safe vehicle positioning procedure components:
- Use temporary traffic control (signs, cones) to establish a safe work space.
- Close the entire lane when needed and only as long as needed.
- Consider safe, quick clearance when opening lanes.
- Use emergency vehicle light discipline. Dim and turn off forward facing lights when appropriate.
- Position the largest vehicle at the beginning of the work space.

Considerations
- Buffer zone
- Angled or parallel blocking
- Hills and curves
- Sight distance
- Weather
- Impact to visibility (vehicle markings or emergency-vehicle lighting)

Safer for us, Safer for them!

Establish a safe work zone

ROAD MAINTENANCE – park large vehicles (attenuators, dump trucks, etc.) upstream for additional lane blocking maneuvers

LAW ENFORCEMENT – first vehicle on scene establishes initial lane blocking position upstream

FIRE – larger vehicle (harder to move when hit) establishes main lane block upstream

EMS – position immediately downstream for safe patient handling and loading and easy departure from the scene

TOW – position farther downstream to back up and begin vehicle recovery

ROAD SUPERVISOR – stage vehicles far downstream or well off (on an adjacent) the roadway

COUNTY ATTORNEY, MEDIA – direct all similar vehicles to park safely away from the working incident scene downstream or well off (on an adjacent) the roadway

⚠ Quick Tips

As you approach each scene:
- Think tactically about positioning vehicles
- Watch out for each other
- Communicate safety concerns

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UPSTREAM   DOWNSTREAM

Lane 1 →

Lane 2 →

EMERGENCY SCENE AHEAD