

***PURPOSE***

In the course of providing emergency services to the public, ECFR frequently works with law enforcement officers at the scene of motor vehicle accidents and other incidents.

OBJECTIVE

To establish guidelines that address a course of action for personnel when a law enforcement officer gives directions to an emergency vehicle driver or Incident Commander.

SCOPE

All Personnel

DIRECTIONS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Regardless of response mode, while enroute to an incident, all fire department emergency vehicles shall comply with the directions of a sworn law enforcement officer, including a signal to stop.

VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

At vehicle accidents, law enforcement officials may direct the specific positioning, or repositioning, of emergency vehicles on an incident scene to maintain traffic flow, reduce bottlenecks, enhance scene safety, and prevent secondary collisions. Compliance with such direction is generally required of emergency vehicle drivers and their supervisors or chiefs.

However, if the movement of vehicles will obviously jeopardize the safety of Fire-Rescue personnel, the Incident Commander (IC) should raise the issue in a cooperative fashion with the ranking law enforcement officer on the scene, and jointly decide upon a plan of action that is acceptable to both parties. However, in no case, shall the IC or emergency vehicle driver simply ignore the directions or concerns of the law enforcement officer.

If the IC feels that the directions of a law enforcement officer impeded the operations of the fire department, or created an unsafe situation for department personnel, he/she shall forward, through the chain of command, a report of the incident to the Fire Chief for further action.