

Alive on Arrival

Tips for Safe Emergency Vehicle Operations



**Seventy percent of all firetruck accidents
happen during emergency response.**

Incidents involving rollovers made up 66% of all fatal firetruck accidents.

The New York State Association of Safety Officers
has developed the following presentation based on information
from the US Fire Administration.

Be Alert. Be Safe.



Disclaimer

All local laws, Standard Operating Procedures, and Guidelines take precedence. The Incident Commander has the ultimate authority to manage and direct all on-scene operations including all safety efforts. Every situation is different – requiring the adherence to established policies, rules, common sense and good judgment, which is paramount to the safety of all concerned.

Special Note

Many of the following safety tips apply directly to those who respond in their Private Owned Vehicle (POV).



If you are an emergency vehicle operator, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Drive carefully and never assume other vehicles see you.



If you are an emergency vehicle operator, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Slower means safer. Don't drive faster than the posted speed and drive even slower when road conditions or visibility are poor.



If you are an emergency vehicle operator, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Always stop at intersections. Drive through intersections and railroad crossings only after coming to a complete stop. Be prepared to stop, even when you have the right of way.



If you are an emergency vehicle operator, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

If you approach an unguarded railroad crossing, listen for an oncoming train by lowering your windows and turning off radios, fans and wipers, until it is safe to proceed.



If you are an emergency vehicle operator, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Park safely. Park your vehicle away from hazardous areas, such as downed electrical lines, falling debris, flames, toxic gases and smoke.



If you are an emergency vehicle operator, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

If you park on a roadway, make sure your vehicle can be seen by oncoming traffic by using the correct emergency warning lights. Turn-off lights that can blind other drivers when you are parked, especially at night.



If you are an emergency vehicle operator, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Always use the parking brake and appropriately chock the wheels of parked emergency vehicles.



If you are an emergency vehicle operator, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Do not move your vehicle until you and all passengers are safely seated and are wearing seat belts; every passenger needs to have a seat belt. If your vehicle does not have them for every passenger, they need to be installed.



If you are an emergency vehicle operator, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Make sure your vehicle is completely stopped before anyone unbuckles their seat belt and exits.



If you are an emergency vehicle operator, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Always use a spotter when backing up your vehicle.



If you are an emergency vehicle operator, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Never drive if you are under the influence of medications, drugs or alcohol, or if you are tired.



If you are an emergency vehicle passenger, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Put on your protective clothing before getting into the vehicle.



If you are an emergency vehicle passenger, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Always wear a seat belt.



If you are an emergency vehicle passenger, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Never ride on the exterior tail board or side running boards.



If you are an emergency vehicle passenger, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Make sure the vehicle has come to a complete stop before you unbuckle your seatbelt and never try to jump onto or from a moving vehicle.



If you are an emergency vehicle passenger, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Make sure all tools and equipment in passenger and patient treatment compartments are secured before the vehicle moves.



If you are an emergency vehicle passenger, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Look before you exit. Watch for oncoming traffic, downed wires and other hazards.



If you are an emergency vehicle passenger, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Never board an emergency vehicle as a responder under the influence of medications, drugs or alcohol.



If you are working the scene,
keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Always wear your certified high-visibility American National Safety Institute (ANSI) 207, *High Visibility Public Safety Vests*, standard traffic vest.



If you are working the scene,
keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Use Department of Transportation (DOT)-approved orange traffic cones — at least 28 inches in height, with retro-reflective collars.



If you are working the scene,
keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

**Use retro-reflective coral DOT-
approved signs stating “EMERGENCY
SCENE AHEAD” to warn drivers.**



If you are working the scene, keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

Use illuminated warning devices, such as flares or arrow boards, to channel moving traffic away from the incident scene.



If you are working the scene,
keep yourself safe by following these important tips:

If you are a spotter for a backing vehicle, always be aware of its direction and location. Never turn your back on a vehicle headed in your direction.

As The Officer In Charge

You are responsible for safe and prudent operations of all the emergency vehicle and for the safety of all passengers in the vehicle.

For a poster of this program, contact the USFA at: https://www.usfa.fema.gov/operations/ops_vehicle.html



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