Bath Township Fire Department			Standard Operating Guideline	
Section Safety	**Referral No.** S-O5	**Subject:** Positioning Apparatus	**Date Issued** 3/03	**Date Revised** 3/08

Purpose:

- To provide guidelines for safe apparatus positioning at emergency incidents that best protects the work area and personnel from vehicle traffic and other hazards.

Scope:

- This standard operating guideline shall apply to all personnel.

Responsibilities:

- Officer
  - Ensure that personnel respond properly.
  - Once personnel have arrived on scene, officers will provide direction based on the Incident Management System.

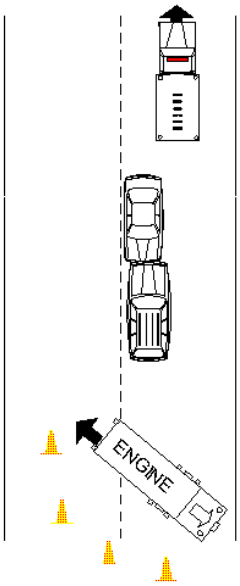
- Personnel
  - All personnel have the responsibility of following the direction of Incident Command at an emergency scene.
  - All personnel have the responsibility of wearing proper personal protective equipment and positioning apparatus in a safe manner.

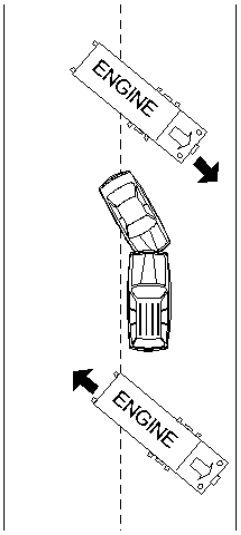
Guidelines:

- **Safety is always our first priority**
- All personnel should understand and appreciate the high risk that firefighters are exposed to when operating in or near moving vehicle traffic.
  - We should always operate from a defensive posture.
  - Always consider moving vehicles as a direct threat to your safety.
- Nighttime operations are particularly hazardous.
  - Visibility is reduced, and the flashing of emergency lights tends to confuse motorists.
- Emergency personnel are at great risk while operating in or around moving traffic.
- There are precautions that can be taken to protect yourself and all crew members:
  - Never trust the traffic
  - Engage in proper protective parking
  - Wear high visibility reflective safety vests
  - Reduce motorist vision impairment
  - Use traffic cones and flares

- Listed below are benchmarks for safe performance when operating in or near moving vehicle traffic.
  - Always maintain an acute awareness of the high risk of working in or around moving traffic.
    - **Never trust moving traffic!**
    - **Always look before you step!**
    - **Always keep an eye on the traffic!**
  - Always position apparatus to protect the scene, patients, emergency personnel, and provide a protected work area.
    - Where possible, angle apparatus at 45 degrees away from curbside, this will direct motorist around the scene.
    - Apparatus positioning must also allow for adequate parking space for other fire apparatus (if needed), and a safe work area for emergency personnel.
      - Allow enough distance to prevent a moving vehicle from knocking fire apparatus into the work areas.
  - At intersections, or where the incident may be near the middle of the street, two or more sides of the incident may need to be protected.
    - Block all exposed sides.
    - Where apparatus is in limited numbers, prioritize the blocking from the most critical to the least critical.
  - For first arriving engine companies where a charged hoseline may be needed, angle the engine so that the pump panel is "down stream," on the opposite side of on-coming traffic.
    - This will protect the pump operator.
  - The incident commander must assess the parking needs of later arriving fire apparatus and specifically direct the parking and placement of these vehicles as they arrive to provide protective blocking of the scene.
    - During daytime operations, leave all emergency lights on to provide warning to drivers.
  - For NIGHTTIME operations, turn OFF fire apparatus headlights.
    - This will help reduce the blinding effect to approaching vehicle traffic.
  - Crews should exit the curbside or non-traffic side of the vehicle whenever possible.
  - Always look before stepping out of apparatus, or into any traffic areas.
    - When walking around fire apparatus parked adjacent to moving traffic, keep an eye on traffic and walk as close to fire apparatus as possible.

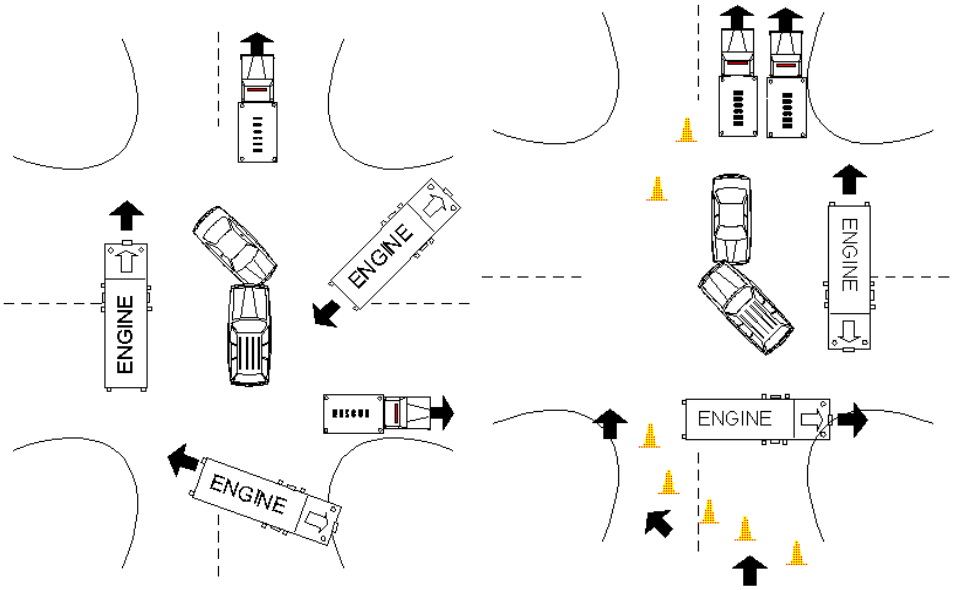
- When parking apparatus to protect the scene, be sure to protect the work area also.
  - The area must be protected so that patients can be extricated, treated, moved about the scene, and loaded into Rescues safely.
- Once enough fire apparatus have "blocked" the scene, park or stage unneeded vehicles off the street whenever possible.
  - Bring in Medic Units one or two at a time and park them in safe locations at the scene.
    - This may be "down stream" from other parked apparatus, or the Medic Unit may be backed at an angle into a protected loading area to prevent working in or near passing traffic.
  - At residential medical emergencies, park Medic Units in driveways for safe loading where possible.
  - If driveways are inaccessible, park Medic Units to best protect patient loading areas.
- Place traffic cones at the scene to direct traffic.
  - This should be initiated by the first company arriving on the scene and expanded, if needed, as later arriving companies arrive on the scene.
- Placing flares, where safe to do so, adjacent to and in combination with traffic cones for nighttime operations greatly enhances scene safety.
- At major intersections a call for police response may be necessary. Position Medic Units to protect patient loading areas.
- Command should establish a liaison with law enforcement as soon as possible to jointly provide a safe parking and work area and to quickly resolve the incident.



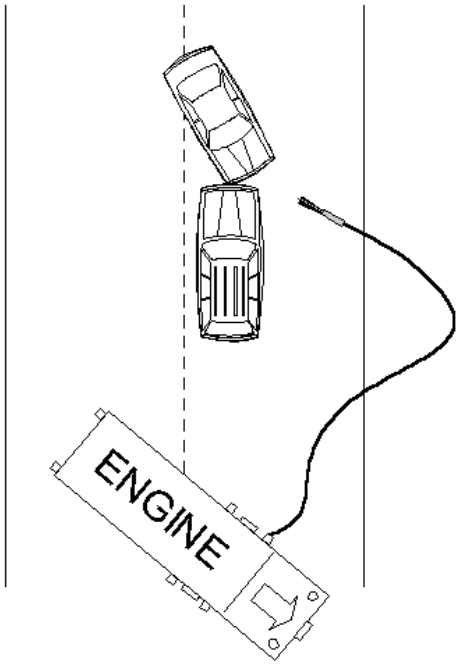


the curb.

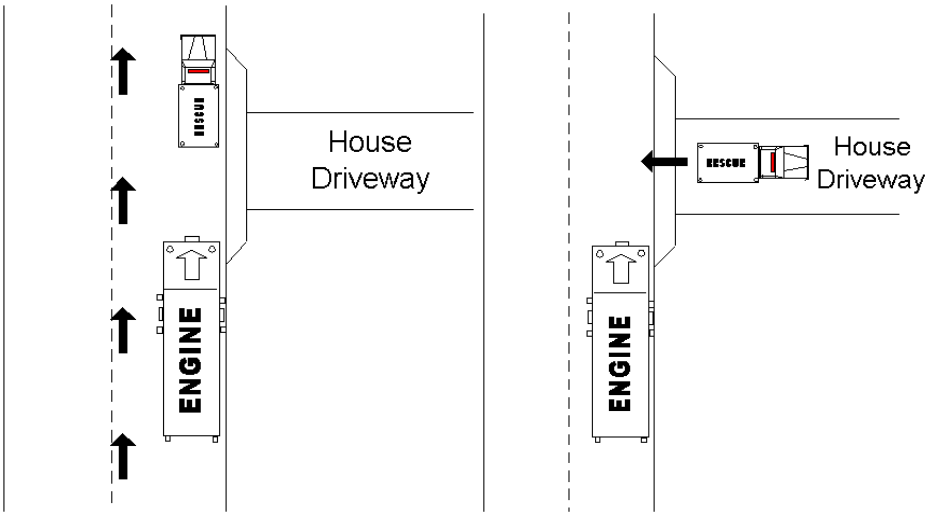
Where possible, angle apparatus at a 45-degree angle from



Often times two or more sides may need to be protected.



To protect pump operator, position apparatus with the pump panel on the opposite side of on-coming traffic.



Where possible, park rescues in driveways or position Medic Unit to protect patient loading area.