

Incident Management

Highway incidents include crashes, disabled or abandoned vehicles, road debris, work zones and other emergencies. These often have substantial direct costs such as death, injury, and property damage. However, many motorists do not consider the impact of *secondary costs* such as traveler delay, reduced productivity, increased costs of goods and services, increased fuel consumption and air pollution and secondary crashes.

What is Incident Management?

Maximizing safety while minimizing secondary costs through effective management of highway incidents.

What is the Incident Management Task Force?

The Incident Management Task Force (IMTF) consists of highway safety professionals from around Kentucky and functions under the authority of the Governor's Executive Committee on Highway Safety. The mission is to improve the safety of first responders and motorists, and reduce delays on our roadways by providing oversight and direction for Kentucky's Highway Incident Management Program.

What if I'm involved in an incident?

Kentucky has a Quick Clearance Law (KRS 189.580) meaning:

If you are involved in a crash:

- If no one is visibly injured, move the vehicle to the shoulder or off the interstate or parkway.
- Call police.
- Exchange information.

If you have a disabled vehicle:

- Move the vehicle off the roadway if possible and stay in the vehicle.
- Turn on emergency flashers.
- Tie something white or bright to the antenna or window, or raise the hood, to request aid.
- If unable to move the vehicle from the roadway, stand away from the vehicle.

How do I safely pass an incident?

Kentucky has a Move Over Law (KRS 189.930) meaning:

When an emergency vehicle is stopped on the side of the road:

- Move to the next lane.
- Slow down if changing lanes is not possible.
- Use caution and watch for workers and/or emergency personnel.
- Stay alert and minimize distractions.



Emergency vehicles display yellow, red, red and white, red and blue, or blue lights. This includes police, fire, and EMS, as well as construction vehicles, tow trucks and other public safety vehicles.



Secondary crashes, which occur as a result of a previous crash, account for 20 percent of all crashes. With vehicles traveling at highway speeds coming to an abrupt stop, not only is safety a concern at the scene, but also traffic back-up. Secondary crashes are often greater than that of the original incident.

The cost of traveler delay

According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), traffic incidents cause 25 percent of congestion.

► **FACT:** Blocking one lane of a three-lane freeway reduces capacity by almost 50 percent.

► **FACT:** Five minutes of stopped traffic will cause a 15-minute delay in travel time.

Source: Incident Management Response Plan-Hampton Roads Area, Virginia

The cost of delays due to highway crashes is more significant than most people realize. Cost figures account for reduced productivity, increased cost of goods and services, and increased fuel consumption.

► **FACT:** Cost associated with a closure of one lane of interstate in Kentucky for 20 minutes = \$10,000.

► **FACT:** Total cost of Kentucky traveler delay in 2000 = \$25.6 Billion.

Source: LFUCG Incident Management Manual

The dangers in work zones



► **FACT:** There is one work zone *fatality* every ten hours in the United States.

► **FACT:** There is one work zone *injury* every thirteen minutes in the United States.

Source: FHWA and CRASH

Need help? The SAFE Patrol is on its way!

To aid motorists, the SAFE (Safety Assistance for Freeway Emergencies) Patrol is operated on Kentucky Interstates and Parkways seven days a week. **Call 1-877-FOR-KYTC (1-877-367-5982).**

SAFE Patrol operators may provide gasoline, oil, add air to tires or change flat tires, provide a “jump” for dead batteries, and if necessary push vehicles off the roadway. Drivers also work to prevent traffic crashes by removing debris from the roadway and tagging abandoned cars. At the scene of a crash, drivers are trained in traffic flagging to assist in traffic management. For more information on the SAFE Patrol program, visit http://highwaysafety.ky.gov/safe_patrol.asp



See a road hazard? Report it!

You can now directly inform the Transportation Cabinet of highway hazards in your area. Call the Highway Hazard Hotline at **1-877-FOR-KYTC (1-877-367-5982)** with the location of the problem, name or number of the state highway, and either a milepoint or landmark. The hotline is answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week by Transportation Cabinet personnel and is available throughout the year.

Traffic and Travel information

Call **511** if in Kentucky or 1-866-737-3767 if calling from out-of-state. Information can also be found at <http://511.ky.gov>.



For additional information:

- **Advanced Regional Traffic Interactive Management & Information System:** www.artimis.org
- **Traffic Response and Incident Management Assisting the River Cities:** www.trimarc.org
- **Work Zone Safety (Federal Highway Administration):** <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/>

View Kentucky's Incident Management Strategic Plan at http://highwaysafety.ky.gov/ea_incident_management.asp (under “Quick Links”)