

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

**SECTION:** Firefighting  
**SUBJECT:** Interstate Operations  
**RIVISED:** 7/2013

### **PURPOSE:**

To establish response and operation guidelines for fire and medical incidents on Interstate 81.

### **POLICY:**

- A. The fire department shall follow these guidelines for the response criteria for both fire and medical incidents on the interstate.
- B. The fire department shall follow these operation guidelines for emergency incidents on the interstate to insure the proper handling of the incident and safety of personnel.

### **RESPONSE:**

Response with apparatus on interstate 81 will be determined by the nature of the incident. Take into account of lack of water supply and distances to refill tankers.

### **PROCEDURE:**

- A. Upon Arrival:
  - 1. Give the standard condition report which also includes the exact location of the incident.
  - 2. If other responding apparatus are approaching from opposite directions, every effort should be made to inform the other responding apparatus of the best approach.
  - 3. If possible, place apparatus between the emergency scene and the oncoming traffic flow.
  - 4. Place apparatus out of the flow of spilled chemicals, flammable liquids, and run off water (normally this would be up-hill and up-wind from the incident).
  - 5. Request the response of law enforcement and coordinate with them upon their arrival.
- B. Safety:
  - 1. During interstate 81 operations, personnel shall wear a minimum of regular protective clothing, and safety vests, and be guided by the fire department protective clothing policy.
  - 2. If possible, place apparatus between on-coming traffic and the emergency to provide protection for personnel operating on the emergency scene.
  - 3. Personnel should constantly remain cognizant of traffic and shall exercise caution when operating at the scene.
  - 4. Personnel should be aware of the topography of the section of interstate on which they are operating. This can affect the flow of flammable and hazardous materials.
  - 5. Personnel must be aware that storm drains on the interstate and run-off may lead into sewer systems or small streams that could spread contamination.
- C. Water Sources: Fire officers should be cognizant of the lack of water supply on the interstate, and should consider alternative means of obtaining water:
  - 1. Tank on fire apparatus.

2. Additional pumpers.
3. Hydrants on surface streets adjacent to the interstate.
4. Relay pumping.
5. Tankers with portable dump tanks.