



MONTHLY SAFETY MEETING REMINDER

Date: June 2020
Subject: Safety and Professionalism at accident scenes involving serious injury or death

The word "Safety" when related to the towing industry can encompass much more than what is commonly thought of. Naturally personal safety is a very high priority, however, safe business practices are vital for every business as well.

This month we take a brief look into safe business practices when working on scene at a vehicle accident involving serious injuries or death.

As a towing company who may be called to assist with such accidents, your operators and staff may be more than likely entering a crime scene. Displaying professionalism and safety while working on a scene of this severity should be your number one concern. How you conduct yourself will be a reflection of you and the company and may determine whether you are someone law enforcement agencies want to work with in the future.

The following are best practices to consider when working on a scene of extreme severity.

- Follow incoming directions from police dispatch - Sometimes you will be given specific instructions such as incoming routes to a scene due to road closures from Fire and EMS activity, on scene investigators, etc.
- Park away from the scene and in a safe location upon arriving - Approach on foot and introduce yourself to investigating officers. Your identification is important on an active scene with multiple agencies involved.
- Wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at every scene - Even when the roadway is closed, you should continue to wear your PPE and ANSI safety wear.

- Obtain permission before moving vehicles or debris - Clearly communicating with investigating officers is very important.
- Protect yourself from bio-hazards present at the scene - Pay close attention to blood and bodily fluids on, in, or around the vehicles you are working with. Bloodborne viruses can live for days outside the body and still cause infection.
- Taking photos on scene - Photographs of an accident scene can be very beneficial when it comes to insurance billing. Justification of equipment and resources needed at a scene can be a determining factor of receiving proper payment for the work you perform. If you wish to take photographs or video of the scene and involved vehicles, make contact with the lead investigating officer to obtain permission. At no time is it safe or professional business practices to post pictures of accident scenes involving serious injury or death to any social media platform. Consider that photos, videos and stories on social media have the potential to reach family members faster than proper notification by law enforcement.