

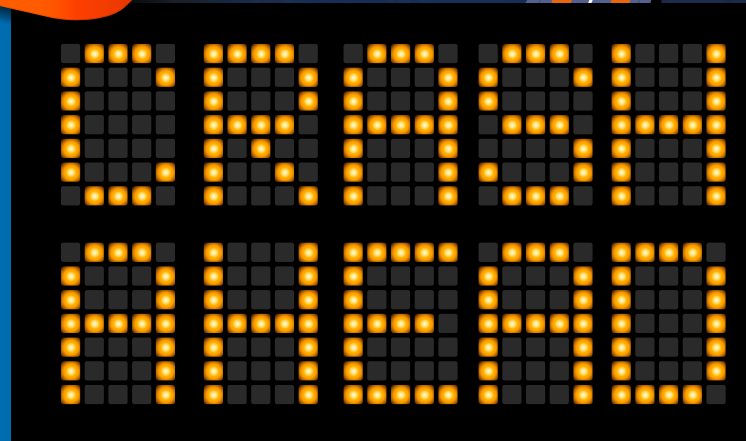
**Every day, collisions and other traffic incidents wreak havoc on roadways around the world.** At risk are not only the lives of the drivers and passengers involved, but also the welfare of surrounding motorists and bystanders and the safety of police and other responders. When responding to a traffic incident or crash, responders are vulnerable to passing traffic and risk being injured or killed.

Every year, road traffic crashes kill **1.35 million** people worldwide—equivalent to the entire population of Maine.<sup>1</sup>



## Safely and quickly clearing the roadway:

- Saves responders' lives
  - **10% of all officers** were killed in the line of duty after being struck by a vehicle.<sup>2</sup>
  - In 2019, **18 law enforcement officers and 26 other responders** in the United States were killed after being struck by a vehicle.<sup>3</sup> The number of injuries and near misses are unknown.
- Prevents secondary crashes
  - **20% of all incidents are secondary crashes**, often causing greater injury or death than the initial incident.<sup>4</sup>



Up to **nine emergency responders** may arrive at each incident, which means that **up to 27 responders**

arrive at a new incident every minute, that up to 1,620 responders are working a traffic incident each hour, and that up to 38,880 responders are working at a traffic incident every day.<sup>5</sup>



## Officer Safety Considerations when Responding to a Traffic Incident

- **Maintain a safe distance** when approaching the scene.
- **Provide a block of the necessary lanes** with your vehicle to protect the scene, those involved, and other emergency responders.<sup>6</sup>
- **Wear your high-visibility vest.** Wearing high-visibility vests significantly improves visibility of an officer on scene.
- **Assess and secure the scene** for responder and motorist safety. Set up flares and/or cones at an appropriate distance to afford motorists time to slow down and adjust to changes in traffic patterns.
- **Coordinate and maintain the scene.** Coordinate with other responders as they arrive on scene.

Training is available online and in person. More information can be found by going to: <https://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/>. Search for training course using number **FHWA-NHI-133126A**.

**Wear your vest. Be alert.  
Take the training. Stay safe.**

Order your copy of **IACP's Safe, Quick Clearance of Traffic Incidents toolkit** to learn more.



<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization (WHO). "Global Status Report on Road Safety 2018," December 2018. [https://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/road\\_safety\\_status/2018/en/](https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_safety_status/2018/en/).

<sup>2</sup> Officer Down Memorial Page, "Honoring Officers Killed in 2019." <https://www.odmp.org/search/year/2019>.

<sup>3</sup> ResponderSafety.com, "2019 Emergency Responder Struck-by-Vehicle Fatalities," [https://d35c9cxl8mg8m.cloudfront.net/Downloads/04e633ac-9666-48d6-9aee-0ba196f4850a/10/2019\\_12\\_31\\_Responder-Struck-By-Fatalities\\_Year-End-Totals.pdf?response-content-disposition=attachment](https://d35c9cxl8mg8m.cloudfront.net/Downloads/04e633ac-9666-48d6-9aee-0ba196f4850a/10/2019_12_31_Responder-Struck-By-Fatalities_Year-End-Totals.pdf?response-content-disposition=attachment).

<sup>4</sup> Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), "Traffic Incident Management," [http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/aboutus/one\\_pagers/tim.htm](http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/aboutus/one_pagers/tim.htm).

<sup>5</sup> International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), They Don't See You (August 2014). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtUrLV7eutg&feature=youtu.be>

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