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Purpose

High impact collisions can present significant extrication challenges. Use of standard tactical plays for vehicle extrication (with the option to call an audible to change the play based on conditions) provides a solid approach to applying the concept of applying standard actions (the standard tactical plays) to standard conditions (wheels down, on its side, wheels up, and extent of damage), to achieve standard outcomes (rapid access, extrication, and patient care).

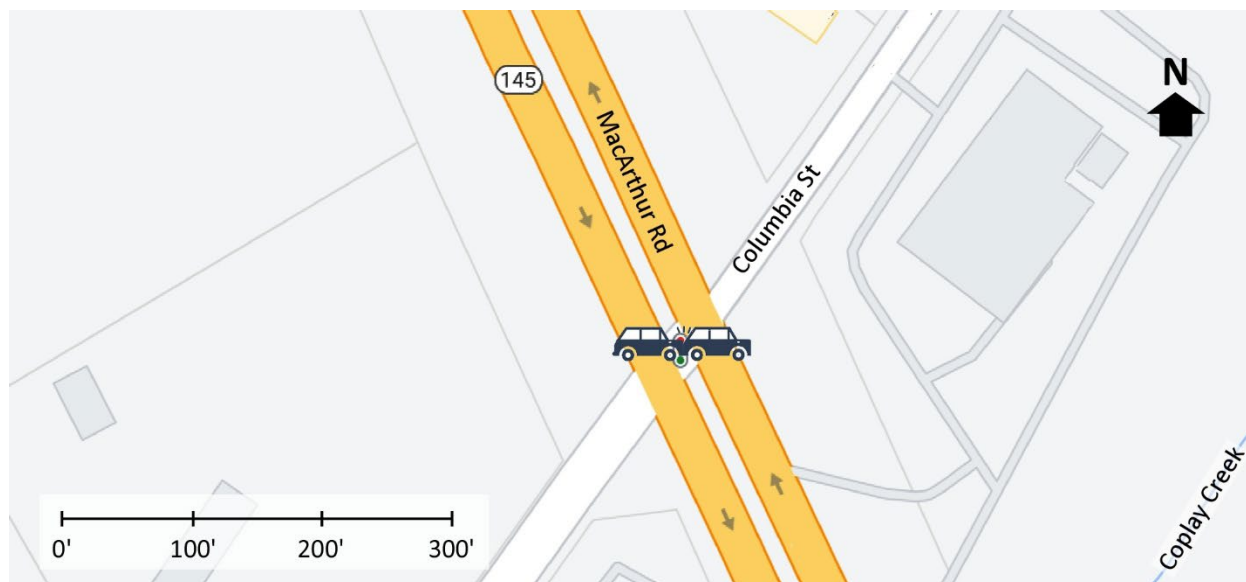
Learning Outcomes

Firefighters and officers implement stabilization, extrication, and patient care tactics based on the strategic decision-making model.

Conducting the Drill

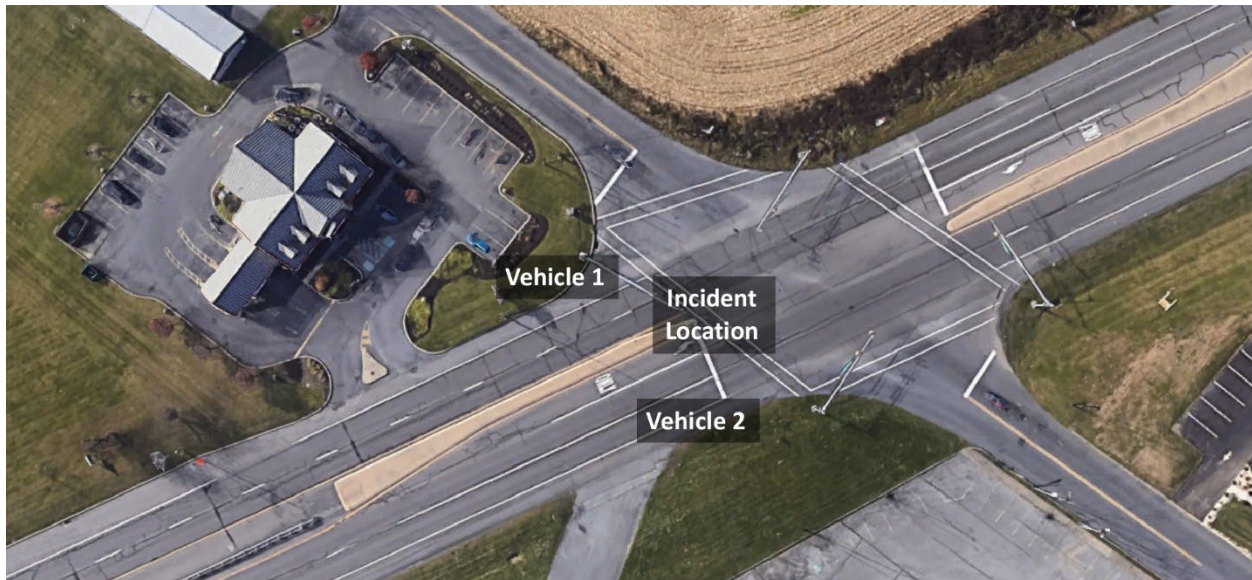
This incident involved a high impact vehicle accident Route 145 (MacArthur Road) and Columbia Street in Whitehall, Pennsylvania on May 1, 2021, at 15:50 (Newsworking, 2021 & Sroka-Holzmann, 2021). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-4) to gain an understanding of the incident location.

Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023a). [Google map Route 145 (MacArthur Road) and Columbia Street, Whitehall, PA]. <http://bit.ly/3YGcY7m>.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023b). [Aerial view Route 145 (MacArthur Road) and Columbia Street, Whitehall, PA]. <http://bit.ly/3mQvwo4>.

Figure 3. Southbound on Route 145



Note: Adapted from Google. (2021a). [Google street view, Route 145 (MacArthur Road) and Columbia Street, Whitehall, PA]. <http://bit.ly/3Fh9bXk>.

Figure 4. Northbound on Columbia Street



Note: Adapted from Google. (2021b). [Google street view, Route 145 (MacArthur Road) and Columbia Street, Whitehall, PA]. <http://bit.ly/3JdQII9>.

You have been dispatched to Route 145 (MacArthur Road) and Columbia Street for a vehicle accident at 15:50. You are the company officer or AIC and have your company's typical staffing. Temperature is 64° F with a 13-mph wind from the west (Weather Underground, 2021).

1. What critical factors would you consider when dispatched and during response and what conversations would you have with your crew while responding?

You hear an advanced life support (ALS) ambulance with a staffing level of two, and a command officer go enroute. You estimate that the ALS ambulance will arrive after you followed by the command officer. You will arrive from the south on Route 145 (MacArthur Road). Watch the first 00:15 of the incident video (Newsworking, 2021) and examine Figure 5 illustrating conditions on arrival.

Figure 5. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from Newsworking. (2021). Pre-arrival video: rescue company extricates female from over-turned car. <https://bit.ly/3JyaLXr>

You also observe an unoccupied Honda Odyssey minivan with moderate front end damage in the northbound lane of Route 145 (MacArthur Road).

2. State your initial radio report (IRR) exactly as you would transmit it to ICOM.

3. What specific actions would you take (as the company officer) immediately upon arrival and exiting the apparatus and what task orders you would give your crew?

Bystanders report that the driver of the minivan ran to the southwest on Columbia Street immediately after the crash and that the female driver of the automobile is entrapped.

4. Would you change the action you are taking or modify the assignments given to your crew? If so, what task orders would you provide?

The female driver of the automobile is restrained in her seat, is conscious and oriented to person, place, time, and circumstances. This patient is complaining of head and neck pain and is having some difficulty breathing due to position (suspended upside down). You do not observe any major bleeding.

5. State your update report exactly as you would transmit it to ICOM.

After stabilizing the vehicle, you determine that the female patient in the car has a strong radial pulse, a respiratory rate of 20, her eyes are open, and she follows simple instructions.

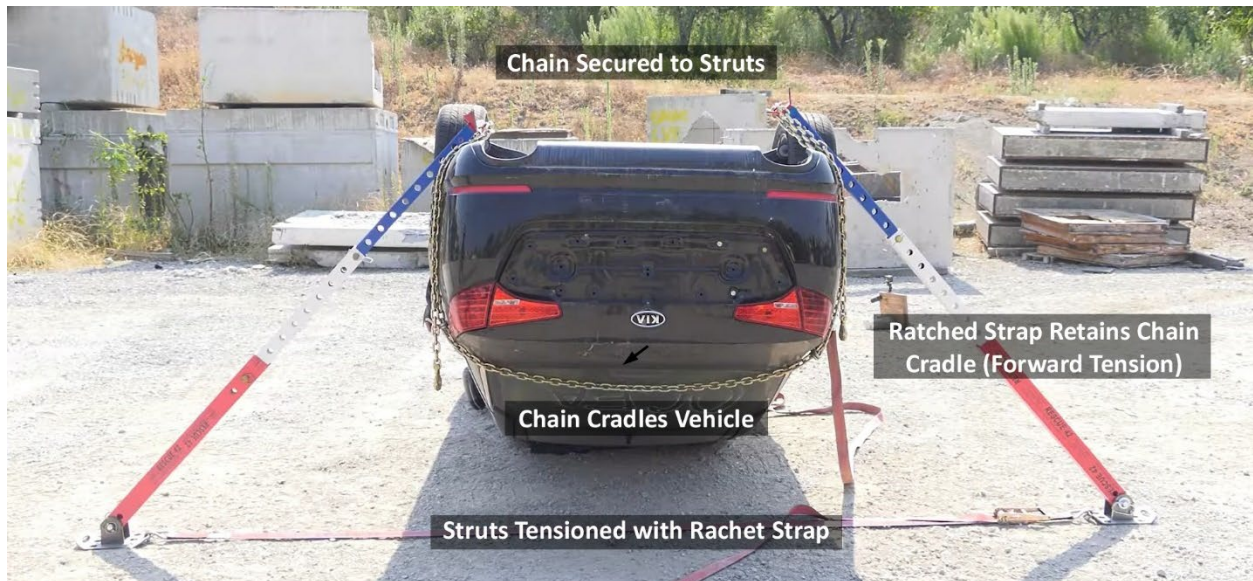
6. State the tactical assignment you would give the ALS ambulance exactly as you would transmit it.
7. State your conditions, actions, and needs (CAN) report that you would provide to the command officer as part of command transfer to IC #2?

The following questions are based on assignment of your company to stabilize the car and extricate the female patient.

8. How did you approach stabilizing the car? What factors influenced your selection of stabilization tactics?
9. After stabilization how would you have approached extrication (think about the specific sequence of actions taken and contingencies if you encountered obstacles to completion of your initial approach)?

Additional Learning: Review Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue (CWIFR) Training Bulletin IS 22-34 Vehicle Stabilization-Vehicle on its Roof (Hartin, 2022) and discuss the application of standard tactical plays for vehicle stabilization and extrication with the members of your company. Review the vehicle stabilization equipment carried on your apparatus and get hands on to review the components and function of the Rescue 42s. Walk and talk through size-up and stabilization of a vehicle on its roof as illustrated in Figure 6.

Figure 6. Chain Cradle



Pay attention to the logistics involved in deployment and positioning of the required equipment with an eye to increasing efficiency and reducing time to complete stabilization.

References

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