



## Peak Traffic Period/Inclement Weather Clearing a Vehicle

Policy : 001-0309

Sunset: 03/2011

### I. POLICY STATEMENT:

During **peak traffic period and/or inclement weather** first responders will only remove vehicles or debris from an incident when it is necessary to remove them to open and clear the roadway and shoulder. If a vehicle or debris is off the roadway and shoulder it is essential that the incident coordinator take all reasonable countermeasures to eliminate or reduce further traffic delays and will determine an appropriate and safe time for removal at a later time.

### II. SCOPE:

The IN-TIME group is committed to reducing the risk for secondary crashes; and the safe and continuous movement of traffic through all incident locations, spill clean-up sites, and work zones. This can be accomplished by the elimination or reduction of additional traffic crash risks and driver delays. This policy applies to all disciplines involved in planning and performing Quick Clearance Operations on Indiana's roadways to compliment the "Open Roads Philosophy". Compliance with this policy will benefit the traveling public and business community by improving traffic safety and reducing travel time during rush hour and inclement weather.

### III. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

Incident investigation and clean-up continue to be a source of congestion on Indiana roadways. Too often we take the position that a vehicle or debris needs to be removed immediately. Sometimes this position puts first responders, particularly recovery personnel in unnecessary danger. Therefore, during rush hour and/or inclement weather first responders will not remove vehicles or debris from an Incident unless it is necessary to remove them to open and clear the roadway and shoulder. If a vehicle or debris is off the roadway and shoulder it is essential that the incident coordinator take all reasonable countermeasures to eliminate or reduce further traffic delays and will determine an appropriate and safe time for removal at a later time.

IV. POLICY COMPLIANCE PROCESS:

If the vehicle or debris is a hazard to the traveling public in its current location can the vehicle or debris be moved out of the way safely to await complete removal at a later and safer time? If yes; move the vehicle or debris to a safe location and inform the occupant/owner that the vehicle or debris cannot be removed until a more appropriate time.

If the vehicles or debris must be removed to clear traffic lanes then they should be removed safely and quickly to accomplish the “Open Roads Philosophy”.

V. TERMS DEFINED:

**“Open Roads Philosophy”**- The practice of safely and rapidly removing temporary obstructions from the roadway. To provide first responders and the motoring public safety through reducing congestion and the higher risks of secondary crashes. We can do that by clearing vehicles, victims, and debris from the travel lanes of all Indiana roadways.

**“Incident Coordinator”** – The Incident Coordinator is solely responsible (within the confines of his or her authority) for establishing incident objectives and strategies and has over-all responsibility for managing the incident. The IC is directly responsible for ensuring that all functional area activities are directed toward accomplishment of the “Open Roads Philosophy”.

This policy shall be incorporated into the daily activities of incident response.

Approved: YES X NO \_\_\_\_\_

21-April-2009

Date

IN-TIME Chair (print) Maj. Tom Melville

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Reference – INDOT – Lane Closure Policy*