

	TRAVIS COUNTY ESD #5 MANCHACA FIRE RESCUE Department Best Practices	A303
	Authorized by:  Fire Chief Chris Barron	Effective: 12-27-2018 Rescinds: Reference: Application: Shift Personnel
Vehicle Accident Debris		

I. Purpose

To provide guidelines for managing debris at vehicle accident scenes.

II. Background

MFR has a responsibility to assist in clearing the roadway of debris at accident scenes in order to ensure the roadway is safe for traffic. Tow truck operators also have a responsibility to pick up debris for the vehicles they tow. MFR will work with tow operators and coordinate with law enforcement on when it is appropriate to begin debris cleanup.

III. Best Practices

The following best practices should be followed at all accident scenes, except where deviation can be justified by Fire Officers.

- A. **Priority of debris cleanup.** Once scene safety, patient care, and fluid spills are addressed, a determination should be made as to the need for debris removal from the roadway.
- B. **Debris collection.** Debris should be collected, bagged, and placed on the tow truck. The bagged debris may also be placed in the bed or the truck of the accident vehicle, but not in the passenger compartment of the vehicle. Debris and fluids from a vehicle remain the property of the vehicle owner and should be placed with the vehicle for removal from the scene. MFR should not take possession of debris or fluids nor should MFR transport such materials on a MFR apparatus.
 - 1. **Limitations.** Traffic, weather, and the need to return to service for area coverage may preclude a detailed debris removal. This will be determined at the Officer’s discretion.
- C. **Delayed cleanup.** If there is a serious injury, criminal act, or fatality associated with the incident, the MFR Officer should work with on scene law enforcement prior to moving or removing debris.
 - 1. **Remaining on scene.** If debris removal is to be delayed, a decision will need to be made as to whether the MFR apparatus will remain on-scene until the accident investigation is completed. In general, MFR remains on-scene until seriously damaged accident vehicles are removed. However,

if an accident investigations will be prolonged the MFR officer should consult with law enforcement and determine whether their presence is necessary.

- a. **Auto Aid incidents.** If on scene with an AHJ unit in another jurisdiction, The MFR Officer should discuss the viability of the AHJ unit remaining on scene and the MFR resource returning to service for district coverage. If the MFR unit remains on scene and is standing by for more than an hour, the Battalion Chief should be contacted to discuss being relieved by an AHJ resource.