

Bulletin 13: 19 Nov 2013

Assisting Emergency Services Through Worksites

Please assist emergency service vehicles through roadworks sites

Tuesday's story in The Press (November 19), "[Emergency workers slowed by roadworks](#)", highlights how paramedics are experiencing delays in getting to emergencies because of the city's earthquake-damaged streets and increased congestion.

It is important that at all roadworks sites everything is done that is practically possible to assist with the safe and easy passage of emergency service vehicles through roadworks. This is critical to ensure emergency services get to their destination with minimal delay. It is advised that at all toolbox meetings it is discussed how the work crews will assist emergency vehicles onsite and ensure that all personnel are aware of the collective responsibilities surrounding assisting emergency services vehicles.

Tuesday's story also talks of how often other vehicles are unable to pull over to allow an emergency services vehicle to pass because of space limitations. If this arises at your works sites, please ensure that all staff are aware they must assist where possible to get emergency vehicles through.

Examples of ways in which staff can assist emergency vehicles through the site are,

- Holding all traffic at manual traffic control positions, allowing the vehicle to traverse the site unimpeded, enabling a faster transition of site.
- Moving of equipment to allow vehicles to move out of the path of the emergency vehicle or allow the emergency vehicle to bypass queued traffic.
- Staff encouraging vehicles in front of the emergency vehicle to transition the site in a more efficient manner.
- Staff directing traffic or alerting them to the presence of an approaching emergency vehicle.

St John and other emergency services have done all they can to ensure their operations are as efficient as possible with extra vehicles and staff; what we now need to do is ensure we continue to do all we can to help get vehicles through quicker and to their emergency.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Regards

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