Rapid Clearance of Disabled Vehicles and Non-Hazardous Spilled Freight Loads UDOT 06C-36
Effective: 2007 Revised: March 24, 2015

Purpose
To define the Utah Department of Transportation (Department) policies for authorizing rapid clearance of disabled vehicles and non-hazardous spilled freight loads from Utah highways.

Policy
1. The Department will make a reasonable effort to clear highways of disabled vehicles and non-hazardous spilled freight loads as rapidly as possible to ensure public safety and convenience.

2. The Incident Management Team (IMT) operator or other designee of the Region Director will determine when a disabled vehicle presents a traffic hazard or an excessive impact to driver delay. The IMT operator will move the disabled vehicle expediently to a less impactful location if either of these conditions is met and if it is feasible to do so. Use of the IMT truck is authorized to accomplish this task.

3. The Region Traffic Operations Engineer or other designee of the Region Director will first approve any actions by the Department to clear travel lanes of a spilled load in such a way that destroys the load or reduces its salvage value. The Region Traffic Operations Engineer or other designee will authorize immediate removal of the spilled load from the travel lane by the Department if it is determined that attempts to salvage the load will cause traffic hazards by causing traffic backing or restricting travel lanes.

4. The Department may permit the owner or insurer of a spilled load to salvage the load only if the salvage operations do not significantly impede traffic flow or do not constitute a hazard to traffic.

5. The owner or insurer of a load is responsible for all associated costs including any costs of traffic control and permitting as required by the Department if it is given permission to salvage the load.

Background
Traffic crashes often result in vehicles becoming disabled in or near the travel lanes. These vehicles can be a hazard to traffic and can create excessive delays by blocking available travel lanes. These blockages cause backing that creates the potential for secondary crashes to occur upstream of the incident.
Traffic crashes also occasionally cause freight loads in commercial vehicles to be spilled on the highway. Often the owner of the freight or the insurer of the carrier will attempt or request permission to salvage the spilled freight. The salvage efforts may cause significant delays to traffic on the highway and have the potential to create hazardous conditions for travelers by causing secondary crashes upstream of the incident scene.

The Department has the authority to order the removal or to take steps to remove disabled vehicles and spilled loads with its own forces in order to ensure public safety. This policy describes the procedure that the Department will follow in ordering the immediate removal of disabled vehicles and spilled freight from its highways.
Procedures
Rapid Clearance of Disabled Vehicles and Non-Hazardous Spilled Freight Loads
UDOT 06C-36.1

Responsibility: Incident Management Team Operator or other person designated by Region Director

Action

1. Investigate disabled vehicles to determine impact on public safety and convenience.

2. Ensure the immediate removal to a less impactful location if a disabled vehicle has potential adverse impacts to public safety and convenience and if it is feasible to do so.

Responsibility: Region Traffic Operations Engineer or other person designated by Region Director

3. Investigate spilled freight loads to determine impact on public safety and convenience.

4. Authorize immediate removal from the highway if the spilled load results in adverse impacts to public safety and convenience.

5. Authorize salvage operations upon request of freight owner only if salvage can be completed without significant adverse impact to public safety and convenience.

6. Establish traffic control requirements and Department permit requirements for salvage operations, if authorized.

Responsibility: Region District Engineer or designee

7. Direct Department forces in clearing spilled load from highway.

8. Maintain financial records for reimbursement of Department costs for clearing disabled vehicles and spilled loads.