

Appendix D

Major Incident OMUTCD Closure Requirements

2012 OMUTCD Section 6L.01 General

Support:

- 01 The National Incident Management System (NIMS) requires the use of the Incident Command System (ICS) at traffic incident management scenes.
- 02 A traffic incident is an emergency road user occurrence, a natural disaster, or other unplanned event that affects or impedes the normal flow of traffic.
- 03 A traffic incident management area is an area of a highway where temporary traffic controls are installed as authorized by a public authority or the official having jurisdiction of the roadway, in response to a road user incident, natural disaster, hazardous material spill, or other unplanned incident. It is a type of TTC zone and extends from the first warning device (such as a sign, light, or cone) to the last TTC device or to a point where vehicles return to the original lane alignment and are clear of the incident.
- 04 Traffic incidents can be divided into three general classes of duration, each of which has unique traffic control characteristics and needs. These classes are:
- A. Major—expected duration of more than 2 hours;
 - B. Intermediate—expected duration of 30 minutes to 2 hours; and
 - C. Minor—expected duration under 30 minutes.

Option:

- 12 For traffic incidents, particularly those of an emergency nature, TTC devices on hand may be used for the initial response as long as they do not themselves create unnecessary additional hazards.

Section 6L.02 Major Traffic Incidents

Support:

- 01 Major traffic incidents are typically traffic incidents involving hazardous materials, fatal traffic crashes involving numerous vehicles, and other natural or man-made disasters. These traffic incidents typically involve closing all or part of a roadway facility for a period exceeding 2 hours.

Guidance:

- 02 If the traffic incident is anticipated to last more than 24 hours, applicable procedures and devices set forth in other Chapters of Part 6 should be used.

2012 OMUTCD Section 6I.03 Intermediate Traffic Incidents

Support:

01 Intermediate traffic incidents typically affect travel lanes for a time period of 30 minutes to 2
hours, and usually require traffic control on the scene to divert road users past the blockage. Full
roadway closures might be needed for short periods during traffic incident clearance to allow traffic
incident responders to accomplish their tasks.

Guidance:

03 *All traffic control devices needed to set up the TTC at a traffic incident should be available so
that they can be readily deployed for intermediate traffic incidents. The TTC should include the
proper traffic diversions, tapered lane closures, and upstream warning devices to alert traffic
approaching the queue and to encourage early diversion to an appropriate alternative route.*

04 *Attention should be paid to the upstream end of the traffic queue such that warning is given to
road users approaching the back of the queue.*

07 *When light sticks or flares are used to establish the initial traffic control at incident scenes,
channelizing devices (see Section 6F.63) should be installed as soon thereafter as practical.*

Option:

08 The light sticks or flares may remain in place if they are being used to supplement the
channelizing devices.

Guidance:

09 *The light sticks, flares, and channelizing devices should be removed after the incident is
terminated.*

2012 OMUTCD Section 6I.04 Minor Traffic Incidents

Support:

01 Minor traffic incidents are typically disabled vehicles and minor crashes that result in lane
closures of less than 30 minutes. On-scene responders are typically law enforcement and towing
companies, and occasionally highway agency service patrol vehicles.

02 Diversion of traffic into other lanes is often not needed or is needed only briefly. It is not
generally possible or practical to set up a lane closure with traffic control devices for a minor traffic
incident. Traffic control is the responsibility of on-scene responders.

Guidance:

03 *When a minor traffic incident blocks a travel lane, it should be removed from that lane to the
shoulder as quickly as possible.*