



AGGRESSIVE INCIDENT CLEARANCE



WHO



HURDLES



More Information: tti.tamu.edu/policy/how-to-fix-congestion

Description

Aggressive incident clearance (or quick clearance) practices rapidly and safely remove temporary roadway obstructions. Examples include disabled, wrecked, or abandoned vehicles, and spilled cargo or debris. These clearance practices:

- Improve motorist and responder safety.
- Reduce traffic congestion and delays.
- Reduce secondary incidents.

Successful practices use coordinated:

- **Detection**—quickly finding and verifying incidents as they occur (via cameras, sensors, phone tips, media, and information sharing).
- **Response**—quickly dispatching resources and tow trucks.
- **Clearance**—aggressively removing vehicles from lanes and managing congested traffic until normal flow is restored.

Target Market

- Freeways sensitive to traffic incidents.

- Major arterials and freeways with high levels of congestion.

Aggressive incident clearance works best in corridors with:

- High congestion due to crashes or stalled vehicles.
- Monitoring by tow truck drivers and companies.
- Monitoring by traffic system operators via sensors and cameras.

How Will This Help?

- **Improves travel-time reliability** and decreases delay from crashes and stalls, which account for one-quarter of all traffic congestion.
- **Increases response time** through better coordination and information management.
- **Increases safety** for emergency management personnel, those involved in the incident, and other drivers.

Implementation Issues

Public and private agencies must willingly share information and invest resources, especially across jurisdictions. This requires considerable

SUCCESS STORIES

SAFEClear, Houston, Texas
 Costing approximately
\$5 million for
250 freeway miles,

the program offers a
10:1 benefit-cost
ratio for crash and
congestion reduction.



Private
 tow trucks
 respond
 within

six minutes 90 percent
of the time.

In order to meet response targets, **60 to 90 tow trucks patrol the freeways during rush hours.**

planning, organization, interaction, and constant communication between stakeholders. When incidents do occur, rapidly sharing information with all users (including drivers via changeable message signs or other electronic means) can maximize this strategy's effectiveness.

