

TRAFFIC INCIDENTS – MAKING THE INCIDENT AREA SAFE

Task 1. Imagine being a witness to a road traffic accident. In any emergency it is important that you follow a clear plan of action. What would you do, what precautions would you take so as not to put yourself or others in further danger? Put the following actions 1-11 in logical order.

Action	No.
1. Also alert the emergency services to damaged power lines, spilt fuel or any vehicles with Hazchem signs (Hazchem signs on the back of the vehicle indicate that it may be carrying a potentially dangerous substance).	
2. Assume that any casualty who has been involved in a road-traffic incident may have a neck or spinal injury. Do not move the casualties unless it is absolutely necessary – if possible, treat casualties in the position in which you find them, supporting the head and neck at all times, and wait for the emergency services. Be aware that undeployed air bags and unactivated seat-belt tensioners may be a hazard.	
3. Call 999/112 for emergency help, giving as much detail as you can about the incident, indicating the number and age of the casualties, and types of injury.	
4. If a person is trapped inside or under a vehicle, she will need to be released by the fire service. Monitor and record the casualty's vital signs and level of response while you are waiting.	
5. If in doubt about your safety or the meaning of a symbol, keep your distance. Keep bystanders away from the scene and stand upwind of the vehicle. Be aware that road surfaces may be slippery because of fuel, oil or even ice.	
6. It is important to make the incident area safe before you attend any casualties so set up warning triangles (or another vehicle with hazard lights) at least 45m from the incident in each direction. Watch for other vehicles while doing this.	
7. Make vehicles safe, for example, switch off the ignition of any damaged vehicle and, if you can, disconnect the battery. This reduces the risk of a spark causing a fire. Pull the supply cut-off on large diesel vehicles; this is normally found on the outside of the vehicle and will be marked.	
8. Once the area is safe, quickly assess the casualties and prioritize treatment, give first aid to those with life-threatening injuries before anyone else. Search the area around the incident thoroughly to make sure you do not overlook any casualty who may have been thrown clear, or who has wandered away from the site.	
9. Park safely, well clear of the incident site, set your hazard lights flashing and put on a high-visibility jacket if you have one to alert others of your presence. However, do not cross a motorway to attend to an incident or casualty.	
10. Stabilize vehicles – if a vehicle is upright, apply the handbrake, put it in gear and/or place blocks in front of the vehicle. If it is on its side, do not attempt to right it, but try to prevent it from rolling over further. Watch out for physical dangers throughout, such as traffic.	
11. If you cannot make an area safe, then call 999/112 for emergency help. Stand clear of the incident until the emergency services have secured the scene.	

Task 2. Focus on vocabulary – match English and Polish terms with their examples.

English	Polish	Example
hazchem	odzież ochronna o wysokiej widoczności	onlooker
casualty	miejsce wypadku	hazardous chemicals: toxic gas, flammable gas, compressed gas, radioactive agent, oxidising agent, corrosive agent
bystander	ofiara wypadku	hi-vis vest
vital signs	niebezpieczne chemikalia	victim
HV clothing	parametry życiowe	the incident area
scene	świadek zdarzenia	breathing, pulse

Task 3. Do you have a good memory for words? – read the text below and complete the missing words, the first letter of each word has been given. Do not compare with the original text in Task 1 unless you have finished.

Park safely, well clear of the incident site, set your h_____ lights flashing and put on a high-visibility jacket if you have one to alert others of your presence. However, do not cross a motorway to attend to an incident or casualty.

It is important to make the incident area safe before you attend any casualties so set up w_____ triangles (or another vehicle with hazard lights) at least 45m from the incident in each direction. Watch for other vehicles while doing this.

If you cannot make an area safe, then call 999/112 for e_____ help. Stand clear of the incident until the emergency services have secured the scene.

Make vehicles safe, for example, switch off the i_____ of any damaged vehicle and, if you can, disconnect the battery. This reduces the risk of a spark causing a fire. Pull the supply cut-off on large diesel vehicles; this is normally found on the outside of the vehicle and will be marked.

Stabilize vehicles – if a vehicle is upright, apply the handbrake, put it in gear and/or place blocks in front of the vehicle. If it is on its side, do not attempt to right it, but try to prevent it from rolling over further. Watch out for p_____ dangers throughout, such as traffic.

Once the area is safe, quickly assess the casualties and p_____ treatment, give first aid to those with life-t_____ injuries before anyone else. Search the area around the incident thoroughly to make sure you do not overlook any casualty who may have been thrown clear, or who has wandered away from the site.

If a person is trapped inside or under a vehicle, she will need to be released by the fire service. Monitor and record the casualty's v_____ signs and level of response while you are waiting.

Call 999/112 for emergency help, giving as much detail as you can about the incident, indicating the number and age of the casualties, and types of injury.

Assume that any casualty who has been involved in a road-traffic incident may have a neck or s_____ injury. Do not move the casualties unless it is absolutely necessary – if possible, treat casualties in the position in which you find them, supporting the head and neck at all times, and wait for the emergency services. Be aware that u_____ air bags and unactivated seat-belt tensioners may be a hazard.

Also alert the emergency services to damaged p_____ lines, s_____ fuel or any vehicles with Hazchem signs (Hazchem signs on the back of the vehicle indicate that it may be carrying a p_____ dangerous substance).

If in doubt about your safety or the meaning of a symbol, keep your distance. Keep bystanders away from the scene and stand u_____ of the vehicle. Be aware that road surfaces may be slippery because of fuel, oil or even ice.

*Task 4. Follow-up: Considering the Safety, the Scene and the Situation.
Explain the following:*

- why all accidents should be managed in a similar manner;

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- why is it important to evaluate the scene of the accident accurately and stay calm;

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- why one should always think about the potential dangers, for example, if it is safe for you to approach, or whether you have protective equipment;

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- the importance of taking into account the factors involved at the incident, like the mechanisms of the injuries or the number of casualties and their potential injuries;

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Bibliografia:

Kelly Andrew, Anthony Lawlor, *10th Edition First Aid Manual*. Penguin Random House 2017.



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