



Training Reps



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360's: A Must on Every Incident

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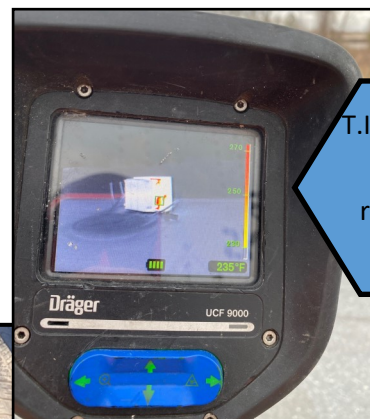
When you hear someone report that a "360 has been completed", what type of incident comes to mind? For most, the phrase is a common report for a structure fire. The fire service has rightfully placed an increased importance on conducting a 360 degree size up. What is often times overlooked is the value of this type of size up at non-structure fire incidents.

A 360 degree size up is defined as a complete circling of all sides of an object or incident. Often times the underside of a vehicle is overlooked or forgotten due to the distractions of an incident. On a recent incident, the underside hazard of a vehicle involved in a motor vehicle collision proved vital to the outcome of the incident, as well as keeping our personnel safe.

Units responded to a motor vehicle collision with injury in parking lot. Upon arrival, crews found a vehicle had traveled down a grass hill which separated one parking lot from another. In the process, the vehicle had struck an above ground transformer, and displaced it from its concrete mounting base. Several hazards were present, such as mineral oil from the transformer traveling to a storm drain, and an injured driver calling for help. Identifying that the vehicle had displaced the transformer, and was now resting on the base, crews performed a thorough 360, which included looking at the underside of the vehicle.

In looking at the underside of the vehicle, it was identified that 4 of the 8 high voltage lines that traveled through the transformer were in fact in contact with the frame of the vehicle. The decision was made not to approach or touch the vehicle for fear of the vehicle being electrified. This proved to be a wise decision. BGE was requested, and confirmed that the vehicle was in fact electrified, and anyone who may have come in contact with the vehicle would have certainly become electrified themselves. Once the power was secured, the patient was removed and transported for treatment.

While the 360 is common place on the fire ground, remember that it is a valuable tool for all incidents. EMS incidents can benefit from a proper size-up. This may provide an understanding of mechanism of injury, factors that contributed to injuries or illnesses, as well as ensure overall provider safety. In cases of vehicle collisions, such as this example, remember that "ruling out a basement fire" (or in this case identifying high voltage wires under the car) can make the difference in keeping your crews safe.



T.I.C.'s are an excellent size-up tool that can alert responders to unrealized hazards.



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