

**FDOT—District 5  
Newsletter  
Summer 2011**

**Special Points of  
Interest...**

- Are you ready for Florida's next natural disaster?
- Do you know where to find information specific to emergency responders?
- Were you aware that hybrid cars pose new challenges to emergency responders?
- Are you up-to-date on the latest MOT techniques?

**Preparing to Respond In An Emergency: Are You Ready?**

With the recent natural disasters throughout the U.S. and hurricane season upon us, now is the perfect time to insure you are prepared for an incident here in Florida.

The Florida Division of Forestry predicts potential for above average wildfire



conditions throughout the summer because of the below-normal levels of rainfall in Florida during the past winter.

Hurricane season officially began on June 1st. NOAA is predicting a very active season in 2011 with

12-18 tropical storms. They estimate that 6-10 will reach hurricane status, 3-6 of which will be major storms, category 3 or higher.

The Florida Department of Transportation has a website that offers all the resources for understanding the evacuation guidelines on Florida highways, including details on the one-way evacuation methods used on several major corridors.

The site specifically details the routes that will be used in one-way evacuations, which is critical for first responders who will need to negotiate around these areas, avoid traffic back-ups, and plan for alternate routes to reach their calls.

Visit the site and familiarize yourself with the information available at:

[www.one-way-florida.com](http://www.one-way-florida.com)



**Hybrid Cars: A New Scenario For Emergency Responders.**

In an emergency situation, first responders are trained to quickly assess the situation and then help those injured or in danger. Those responders who respond to car crashes have a new scenario to add to their assessment with hybrid vehicles. Hybrid vehicles respond differently in crash, fire and water situations.

District 4 heard from Toyota Certified Master Diagnostic

Technician, Rick Kearney, on how hybrid vehicles react in crashes to increase awareness for first responders. Hybrid vehicles act and react very differently than traditional vehicles. They are quieter, and in fact, almost noiseless, which can give the impression they are 'off' or disengaged, when it may not be the case. Kearney advised to always check the instrument panel and look for any indicator

lights. "No lights equals no vehicle movement," said Kearney.



**Inside this issue:**

Hybrid Cars In Emergencies (Continued)	<b>2</b>
MOT Training	<b>4</b>
More On Emergency Management	<b>4</b>

### Hybrid Cars: A New Scenario For Emergency Responders. (Continued)

Most hybrid vehicles use Smart Key Technology. "The key only needs to be present in the vehicle for it to be "started" and multiple keys may be in the vehicle," said Kearney. Removing the key from the vehicle will NOT automatically turn off the vehicle. First responders should verify running condition by the dash indicators.

Hybrids also have different fuel and wiring systems, which can affect the way responders approach vehicles involving fires, water submersion or

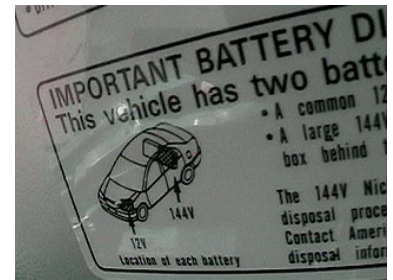
extrication. Kearney told attendees it was important to know that the industry standard for hybrid systems is for all hybrid high voltage cables to have a bright orange housing. This would allow them to identify the cables quickly in the event of an emergency situation.

There are additional resources for first responders who may encounter hybrid vehicles in emergency situations. For multiple pieces of information, visit:

[www.emergencytrainingsolutions.com/ETS/hybrid\\_vehicle\\_info.htm](http://www.emergencytrainingsolutions.com/ETS/hybrid_vehicle_info.htm).

Chuck McGinness, Traffic Incident Management Coordinator, at the Palm Beach SMART SunGuide TMC is the contact for additional information on the Toyota Hybrid presentation. He can be reached at:

( 561) 681-4383 or by email at: [chuck.mcginness@smartsunguide.com](mailto:chuck.mcginness@smartsunguide.com).



## High Voltage Labels

The Chevrolet Volt features a series of high voltage labels that enable quick identification of potential electrical hazards. The labels are attached to each high voltage component.

The labels are color coded to indicate the potential high voltage state

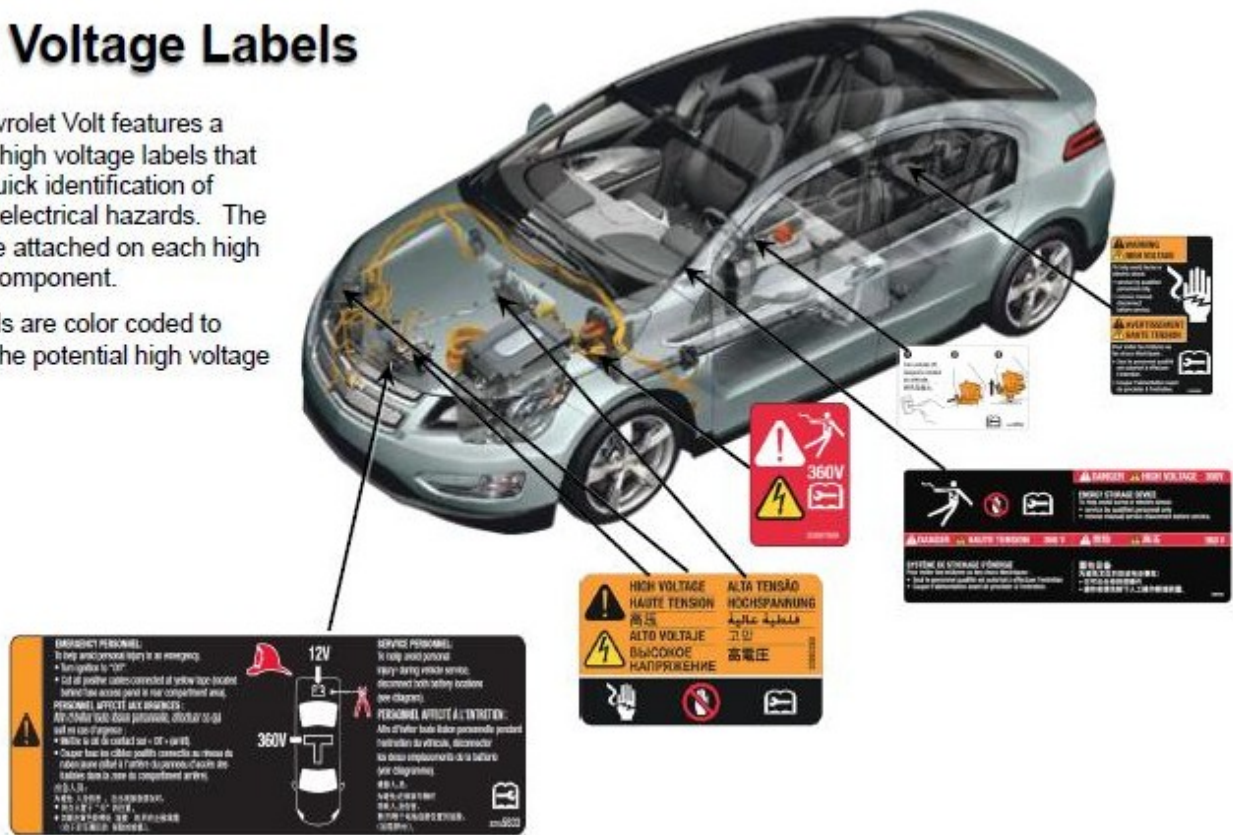


Diagram of High Voltage Labels on a hybrid Chevrolet Volt (From the GM Service Technical College Manual.)

## Hybrid Cars: A New Scenario For Emergency Responders. (Continued)



**Touareg**  
(Hybrid, from 2011)



### Deactivate the vehicle

#### Deactivate the high voltage system

(If the ignition and 12V battery are NOT accessible)



1. Lift the cargo floor in the luggage compartment.



2. Locate the disconnecting point.

- The 12V connector (shown in blue) is located on the E-box, on the left side of the high voltage battery next to the high voltage cable.



3. Disconnect the connector.

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Touareg (Hybrid, from 2011)

#### **⚠ DANGER!**

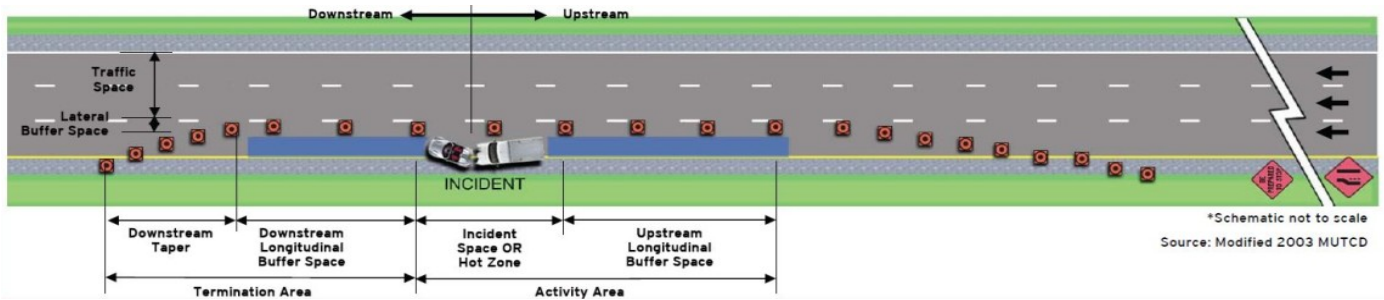
The high voltage system is disabled approximately 20 seconds after disconnecting the connector.

The passive safety systems, such as the airbag and the seat belt tensioner, will continue to be supplied with voltage by the 12V battery.

The high voltage system automatically deactivates if there is an accident and the airbag and/or seat belt tensioner deploy.



## Maintaining Traffic During Incidents: Learn The Proper Techniques

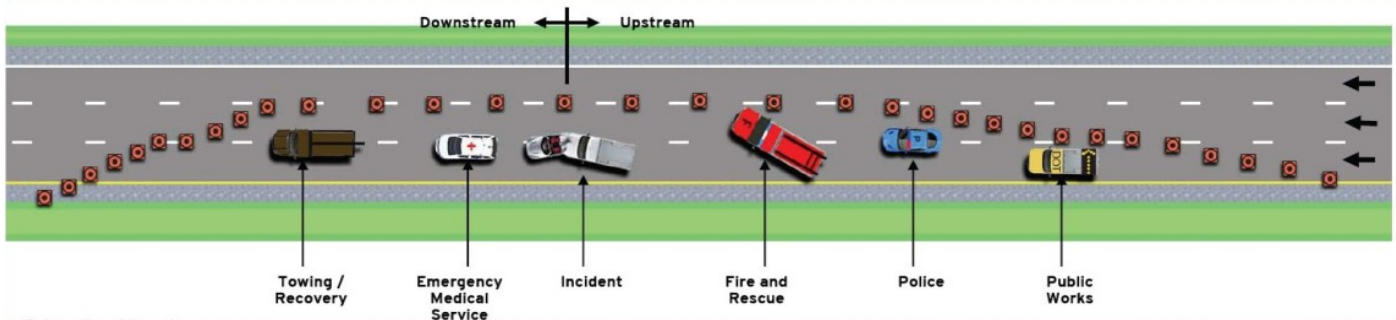


When an unpredictable incident occurs that impacts traffic, emergency responders must be able to control traffic at the scene. A traffic incident can intensify and/or create secondary incidents if congestion in the immediate area cannot be cleared and restored to a safe flow. It is estimated that 60% of congestion is created by incidents, which leads to additional crash potential.

FDOT offers Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) Responder training, available as web-based training modules, that can be taken by anyone who may be involved in traffic incident responses. The modules are free of charge to first responders and can be found online at:

<http://wbt.dot.state.fl.us/ois/MOTTIRCBT/index.htm>

The objectives of the MOT Responder course are to provide training for incident responders on the proper use of Temporary Traffic Control (TTC) at traffic incident scenes. Any person working in or near moving traffic should receive this training which teaches responders to define incidents and the proper TTC zones to be established for each incident/



The course reviews the types of possible incidents, maintenance of traffic concepts, use of various traffic control devices, diagrams, parking guidelines and the overall purpose and goals of unified incident management.

### More on Emergency Management.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management ([www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)) is the go-to resource in the event of any emergency or natural disaster.

First responders, or anyone involved in disaster response, can find more information, specific to the emergency management community at: [www.floridadisaster.org/DEMcom.asp](http://www.floridadisaster.org/DEMcom.asp)

The DEM provides information on emergency management contacts by county, daily up-

dates on various hazardous threats and, in the event of an emergency, will serve as the clearinghouse for disaster-related information.

The key to being most efficient in responding to and assisting during a natural disaster or other emergency is being prepared and having as much knowledge as possible. First responders will need to be able to make quick, educated decisions and by utilizing these resources in advance, those decisions will be the best ones possible.



With effective coordination and cooperation with all first responders, the time required to clear incidents and resume the flow of traffic will be reduced, which will decrease congestion and lower the risk of secondary incidents, providing safer highways for all motorists.

