



SAFETY SERVICE PATROL (SSP) FACT SHEET

WHAT?

A specially equipped and trained operational workforce that works to shorten lane and incident clearance times with the first responder community.

WHY?

DOT Service Patrols are employed by State DOT's as a proactive strategy addressing Traffic Incidents, Traffic Congestion and Motorist Assistance in Urban and Rural areas.

THE START

Service patrols have been operating in the U.S. for more than 40 years. The first Safety Service Patrol (SSP) with continuous regular operations started in 1960 in Chicago, Illinois. In 1998, the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) conducted a study of 54 freeway service patrols in the U.S. and found that approximately 64 percent came into being since 1990. Safety service patrols became actively engaged incident response partners with other public safety agencies as well.

REDUCING DELAY

Highway incidents cause approximately 25 percent of the total congestion on roads. Every minute that an Interstate

lane remains blocked during peak congestion translates into many more minutes of travel delay. SSP's work to reduce this time and provide safe incident sites.

WHAT KIND OF SERVICES DO SSP'S PROVIDE?

- Providing traffic control and assistance to emergency response personnel during traffic incidents
- Clearing damaged and disabled vehicles from roadway lanes and shoulders
- Removing debris from travel lanes and shoulders
- Providing free assistance to motorists, including:
 - » Changing flat tires
 - » Giving air to low tires
 - » Distributing water
 - » Jump starting batteries
 - » Performing minor vehicle repairs
 - » Relocating disabled vehicles out of travel lane
 - » Calling towing or emergency services
 - » Transporting stranded motorists to a safe location



**CLEARING
ROADS**



**HELPING
MOTORISTS**



**SAVING
LIVES**

