

Blocker Vehicle Requirements

Community Event Checklist for Outdoor Public Events

1. Purpose

This checklist outlines minimum safety requirements for using vehicles as temporary barriers at community events.

These measures reduce risk and support safe event delivery.

2. Quick Requirements

General Requirements

- A **driver remains at each blockade** with the **keys for all vehicles** at that location.
- **Do not block marked crosswalks.**
- **Turn vehicle tires away** from the event area.
- **Max spacing:** vehicles no more than **1.5 m** apart (curb to curb).

Vehicle Type & Placement

Heavy Vehicles:

- **Heavy vehicles (preferred primary blockers)** used in a **single row**.
- Place heaviest vehicles in highest-risk approach areas.
- Examples: dual-axle dump trucks, gravel trucks, water-filled tankers.

Light Vehicles:

- **Light vehicles** used only in lower-risk areas.
- Arrange in **double rows** and angle at **30–45°**.
- Do **not** use light vehicles as primary blockers on high-speed approach routes.

3. Improving Vehicle Effectiveness

Mass (Weight)

- Heavier = greater stopping resistance. Use the **heaviest available** vehicles in vulnerable areas.
- Increase mass when possible: load with **sand or gravel**; fill tankers with **water**.
- Avoid empty cargo compartment vehicles where possible.

Orientation & Immobilization

- **Parking brakes engaged; air brakes locked** (if equipped).
- Wheels **turned away from crowd**.
- **Wheel chocks** on both sides.
- **Keys removed** and centrally controlled.

4. Layered System Design

- Form the **front defensive line** with heavy vehicles in a **staggered single row**.
- Place light vehicles **behind** the heavy line to add depth.
- Never rely on a **light-vehicle-only** line on high-speed approaches.

5. Buffer Zones (Crowd Safety)

- Maintain **10–20 m** between heavy blocker vehicles and any **dense crowd** areas; increase for higher-speed risk zones.
- Do not allow crowds to stand directly against blocker vehicles.
- Do not position activity zones, booths, inflatables, or queues directly against blocker vehicles.
- Consider potential **vehicle displacement**—even heavy blockers can move several meters if struck.

6. Additional Safety Requirements

- Vehicles with exposed fuel tanks should park with the tank facing **away** from the direction of a potential impact or threat.
- **No propane tanks, fuel cans, or combustibles** stored in blocker vehicles.
- Remove or secure any loose cargo that could become a hazard during impact.

For questions, please contact the Special Events Office at events@abbotsford.ca