

**Wheels:** What would a first responder do when they arrive at an accident, including a hybrid vehicle?

**Halderman:** A trained first responder will make sure it is safe to rescue any injured passengers. Most vehicles on the road today are equipped with airbags, which may or may not have been deployed, so these systems plus being a hybrid should be considered when approaching the vehicle. Usually, the first procedure is to disable the electrical system. This is done by removing or cutting the battery cable. All hybrid electric vehicles use a 12-volt auxiliary battery and if this is disconnected, it also disables the high-voltage circuit. In addition to disconnecting the 12-volt battery and being sure that the ignition is off, hybrids are equipped with a high-voltage disconnect switch or plug that should be turned off.

All first responders should attend training on identifying hybrid vehicles and become familiar with where the high-voltage components and batteries are located.

