



14th Edition

Collier-Lee Traffic Incident Management Team

May 2007



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Busy Hurricane Season Predicted

Another above average hurricane season has been forecast by the research team at Colorado State University. The team has increased the earlier forecast for the 2007 hurricane season, largely due to the rapid dissipation of El Niño conditions. Landfall probabilities for the 2007 hurricane season are well above their long-period averages.

Now is the time for all agencies to prepare for hurricanes and tropical storms, in conjunction with your community emergency management coordinator. The DOT has developed Contra-Flow plans for I-75, and these plans are available to all agencies. Please contact Don Olson.



Mission

The TIM Team Program brings together all agencies involved in clearing the roadway crashes with the objective of improving detection, verification, response, and clearance times to expeditiously remove a motor vehicle crash or incident from the roadway while providing the best real-time information to motorists, resulting in a safer highway environment for both incident responders and motorists.

FHWA Distributes Simplified Guide to Incident Command

With management of the Nation's highways now a 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week enterprise, transportation professionals are more likely than ever to become involved in incident response and recovery. Those functions are thought of most often in terms of vehicle crashes, but State and local government agencies also are being called in to assist with natural disasters and to be prepared for potential terrorist attacks. Responses to such events often are managed through the Incident Command System (ICS) approach. Because many transportation professionals may be unfamiliar with the ICS approach, FHWA recently published the *Simplified Guide to the Incident Command System for Transportation Professionals*.

The document is available online at:
http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/ics_guide/index.htm

Upcoming Events:

TIM Team Meeting — June 13, 2007
TIM Team Meeting — August 15, 2007
TIM Team Meeting — October 10, 2007



RTMC Construction Update

Construction work continues on the Regional Transportation Management Center. The site preparation work has been completed, and the retention pond has been excavated. Approximately 55% of the slab on grade has been placed, and 85% of the foundations have been placed. Underground electrical conduit installation within the building area is nearly completed. The layout of water main and force main lines has been completed, and the chilled water system was installed and tested. It's full steam ahead!

Road Ranger Service Patrol “Red-Tag” to Mark Abandoned Vehicles

The Road Ranger Service Patrol operators will be fortified with a “Red-Tag” window sticker to place on the rear windshield of abandoned vehicles on their beat. They will notify FHP dispatch of the vehicle status which begins the 6 hour clock. If the vehicle is not removed from the highway by the owner, FHP will call for a tow-truck from the rotation system and have the abandoned vehicle moved off the highway. The Road Ranger Service Patrol is tasked with assisting FHP and all traffic incident responders whenever possible. The mission of the Road Ranger is to remove obstacles to free-flow traffic and communicate traffic dynamics to the appropriate agencies. Road Rangers documented over 17,000 abandoned vehicles in FDOT District 1 in 2006. Abandoned vehicles present a safety hazard on the highway that can be addressed in this proactive manner with the guiding leadership of the Florida Highway Patrol Troopers.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reports that motor vehicles, whether abandoned or parked “safely” to the side of the road, can reduce traffic flow by as much as 25 percent during peak hours. A recent study in the state of Michigan showed that in 1999, there were 20,916 parked cars hit on all roadway types in Michigan. Abandoned vehicles left on roadway shoulders may prevent emergency-vehicle access in certain situations or they may even become a crime scene. Abandoned vehicles can further provide opportunities for stolen tags, vandalism, and in some cases, auto theft.

Sorry we missed you,
but you were not here when
we arrived to offer assistance.



Florida Department
Of Transportation

Road Ranger Service Patrol Unit

Date ____/____/____ Time ____:____ Unit # _____

Call *FHP for assistance



Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding this newsletter, or would like to submit an article, please contact Don Olson at don.olson@dot.state.fl.us.

The Collier-Lee TIM Team is committed to implementing the Quick Clearance principles of Florida's Open Roads Policy through the “3 Cs” of TIM: Communication, Cooperation and Coordination, and providing the public with the best real-time Motorist Information available. Team membership draws from state, regional, and local transportation agencies, public safety providers, and other organizations and companies that service the traveling public. The Teams, sponsored by the FDOT, meet bi-monthly.

SW Florida 511 Statistics

The following statistics are for the period from the launch on April 11 to April 30th 2007.

511 Website

Number of page views	36,886
Average page views per day	1,230
Number of visits	3,167
Average number of visitor sessions per day	106

511 Voice System

Calls	4,414
Minutes	9,575.2

Incidents entered into 511 system

Total	936
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