



77th Edition

Sarasota-Manatee County Traffic Incident Management Team

March 2018



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Free Training Event for Stabilization of Commercial Vehicles During Traffic Incidents** 1

**2018 National Work Zone Awareness Week** 1

**2018 Florida Tow Show** 1

**Impaired Driving Campaign: St. Patrick's Day** 1

**The Impact of Autonomous Vehicles** 2

### Upcoming Events:

#### Next TIM Team Meeting:

Manatee County Public Safety Center 2101 47th Terrace East Bradenton Florida, 34203

1:30 PM

• April 10, 2018



## Free Training Event for Stabilization of Commercial Vehicles During Traffic Incidents



As part of the Florida Department of Transportation and the TIM team's commitment to **improve the safety of our responders**, a free training on stabilization of commercial vehicles during traffic incidents for Fire Service and Towing and Recovery is being provided to our District One TIM teams.

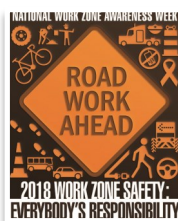
The training scenarios that will be included in the class are the following types of commercial crashes: Overturn crashes, Crush/displacement entrapment/extrication, Override crashes, and Underride crashes.

The class will focus on topics such as: Calculating resistance and lift capacity, Cribbing and stabilization techniques, Extrication from sleeper compartments, Common terminology, and Recommended tool lists.



Additional details on the training, including location and date, will be provided to the team once finalized. If you have any questions on the training, please feel free to contact Brandy Boccuti, TIM Coordinator, at [bboccuti@metriceng.com](mailto:bboccuti@metriceng.com) and/or (407) 949-4283.

## 2018 National Work Zone Awareness Week "Work Zone Safety: Everybody's Responsibility"



The 2018 National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 9-13, 2018. The National Work Zone Awareness Week is an annual spring campaign held at the start of construction season to encourage safe driving through

highway work zones. The theme of this year's event is "Work Zone Safety: Everybody's Responsibility".

To learn more, please click on the following link: <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/outreach/wzawareness>.

## 2018 Florida Tow Show

### "Help Support the Towing Industry"



The 2018 Tow Show will take place on April 5-8, 2018 at the Hilton Across from Disney Village in Orlando, Florida. The 2018 Tow Show schedule includes new and exciting experiences in the towing industry. The event is a great way to learn more about the industry and connect with other incident responders. A major focus at the show has been safety, particularly when it comes to working with vehicles on highways that need to be towed.

To learn more about the event, please visit the following website: <http://floridatowshow.com/>



## Impaired Driving Campaign: St. Patrick's Day

### "Don't Rely On Luck, Designate A Sober Driver."

St. Patrick's Day is March 17th, and we continually see a spike in drunk-driving crashes on this date every year. For too many Americans, St. Patrick's Day has ended in tragedy due to drunk drivers getting behind the wheel. Over St. Patrick's Day from 2012 to 2016, there were a total of 269 lives lost in drunk-driving crashes.

To learn more, please visit the following website: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/drive-sober-or-get-pulled>



## The Impact of Autonomous Vehicles



Autonomous vehicle technology has been a constant topic in the Traffic Incident Management community, including both positive reviews and concerns. As more autonomous and semi-autonomous cars find their way onto public roads, law enforcement officers and first responders are figuring out how to handle them during collisions and traffic stops. It was only two years ago that a police officer in Mountain View, California, pulled over a car only to find that there was no driver inside (there was a passenger, however).<sup>1</sup>

Recently a Tesla Model S slammed into the back of a stopped firetruck on the 405 freeway in Los Angeles County. The driver apparently told the fire department the car was in Autopilot mode at the time. Tesla didn't confirm the car was running Autopilot at the time of the crash, but its manual does warn that the system is ill-equipped to handle this exact sort of situation: "Traffic-Aware Cruise Control cannot detect all objects and may not brake/decelerate for stationary vehicles, especially in situations when you are driving over 50 mph (80 km/h) and a vehicle you are following moves out of your driving path and a stationary vehicle or object is in front of you instead."<sup>1</sup>

There has also been great strides with the technology helping protect first responders. At recent District One Traffic Incident Management meetings, the technology on the autonomous Impact Protection Vehicles was presented to the team. In August, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) unveiled a first-of-its kind autonomous work zone vehicle designed to advance safety for roadway maintenance crews. The Autonomous Impact Protection Vehicle (AIPV) increases work zone safety by removing the driver from a truck that is actually designed to be hit.

The Florida Automated Vehicles (FAV) initiative is helping to educate the public by engaging stakeholders, developing research and pilot projects, and creating awareness of the technologies and how they support the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) vision statement.

FDOT has worked with state legislators and the U.S. DOT to make Florida the first state to allow autonomous vehicles on public roads and attract technology companies interested in using the agency's connected vehicle affiliated testbed along I-4.

Florida is moving along in the connected vehicle and trucking space with two pilot projects. The first – known as SunTrax – will test highway speed toll technology, vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) and vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) communications for any vehicle that travels the Florida Turnpike. The second project will explore driver-assistive truck platooning (DATP) technology on the Turnpike. SunTrax, which is located off of I-4 in Auburndale, is a 400-acre site that will include a 2.25-mile long oval track, which will provide an opportunity for high-speed testing, along with a 200-acre infield to test tolling and automated and connected vehicles. Additionally, the entire site will be a connected environment for the testing of V2I and V2V communications.<sup>2</sup>

The vast majority of accidents are caused by some sort of human error. Removing the human element from driving — and putting the onus completely on state-of-the-art technology — has the potential to dramatically lower driving-related injuries and deaths.

The widespread implementation of driverless vehicles is still years away. A number of obstacles remain. However, if it comes to fruition, the benefits for the Sunshine State are innumerable.<sup>3</sup>



- (1) Tow federal agencies investigate Tesla crash on 405 Highway in Culver City. ABC News. Web. 01.24.2018 . <http://abc7.com/traffic/2-federal-agencies-investigate-tesla-crash-in-culver-city/2985342/>
- (2) Florida set to test high-speed tolls, truck platooning technology. Fleet Owner. Web.07.11.2017. <http://www.fleetowner.com/technology/florida-set-test-high-speed-tolls-truck-platooning-technology>
- (3) Florida needs to be ready for driverless vehicles. Editorial. Web. 04.28.2017. <http://archive.tcpalm.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-florida-needs-to-be-ready-for-driverless-vehicles-3153bb0b-52d6-09f4-e053-0100007fe105-377456491.html/>

Article Submitted by Metric Engineering, Inc. – Brandy Boccuti

## T I M TEAM WEBSITE!

[www.swfilitim.org](http://www.swfilitim.org)

*The Sarasota-Manatee County 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.*

### 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*

