TIM TEAM TIMES

39th Edition | Sarasota-Manatee County Traffic Incident Management Team | **July 2011**

Upcoming Events:

TIM Team Meeting :

Tuesday
August 9th , 2011
1:30 pm
Sarasota County
Public Works Office
1001 Sarasota Center Blvd
Sarasota, Florida 34240

IT'S THE LAW
MOVE OVER
FOR STOPPED EMERGENCY VEHICLES
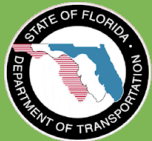
FDOT'S Florida 511 Launches the New Traffic APP

TALLAHASSEE, FL —- The Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Florida 511 iPhone application (app) is now available for free download on iTunes. The Florida 511 Traveler Information System provides traffic information on all of Florida's interstates, toll roads and many major metropolitan roadways. The app is available for the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch in the iTunes App Store. The new app provides the same real-time traffic and travel time information as the 511 phone system and FL511.com.

The 511 app uses iPhone's GPS tracking to provide users with traffic information within miles of their location. Users can set the app to provide information for a range of up to 200 miles from their location or receive traffic information based on their registered My Florida 511 custom routes. Travel time information is also available based on location and direction of travel. The Florida 511 app offers traffic updates in three ways:

- An audible recording of incidents
- On-screen list of incidents
- Map view displaying incidents

"This is a great addition to Florida 511's suite of traffic resources such as the toll-free phone call, FL511.com and My Florida 511 personalized services," said FDOT Secretary Ananth Prasad. "The app allows users to access traffic updates quickly and safely."

The Florida 511 system is a safety resource from FDOT. The Department reminds all travelers to Know Before You Go by checking the app, making a toll-free call to 511 or visiting FL511.com before leaving to avoid distracted driving.

"If you're on the road, have a passenger check 511 or pull off the road to call 511 or check the 511 app," said Sgt. Kim Montes of the Florida Highway Patrol.

Users can still receive personalized Florida 511 updates by creating a My Florida 511 account. Registered users can hear information on their custom routes first when calling 511 and even receive traffic alerts via phone call, text message and/or e-mail. My Florida 511 users can customize alerts based on time of day, day of the week and severity of incident. The system is also updated during emergencies such as a hurricane or wildfire with information on lane closures, toll suspensions and more. Article submitted by Vicky Mixson, Global-5. For further information or questions please contact Vicky Mixson at : vickymixson@global-5.com

2011 Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Self-Assessment (SA)

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) programs continue to play a vital role in the safe and quick clearance of traffic incidents while providing a framework for reducing congestion and maximizing the use of existing transportation infrastructure. A critical component of capitalizing on the success of existing programs and aiding the development of new TIM programs is periodic evaluation of the components of successful multi-agency TIM programs. The TIM Self-Assessment (TIM SA) was designed to provide an easy-to-use tool for measuring TIM program performance.

Since its inception in 2002, a number of federal initiatives have evolved to the point where synergies between those initiatives and the progress of individual TIM programs should be evaluated and captured in the TIM SA. Among these initiatives:

- The National Traffic Incident Management Coalition and its National Unified Goal;
- FHWA's Traffic Incident Management Performance Measures Focus States Initiative;
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements
- State Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) requirements

Please plan to join us at the next regularly scheduled TIM Team meeting for the 2011 Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Self-Assessment (SA).

Traffic Incident Management Notification and Agency Resource Guide (NARG)
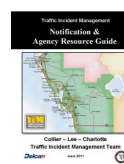
The Traffic Incident Management Notification and Agency Resource Guides (NARG) are now complete. The electronic version is available on the TIM Team website . Please click on the following link to review :

http://www.swfltim.org/Document%20Archives/CSM/Handouts/SM%20NARG_June%202011.pdf

Good Practices in Evacuation and Response

Florida is well known as the hurricane capital of the world for a good reason. Local and Federal governments invest hundreds of hours planning for the "next big one". With the advent of technology, many of the residents and visitors will be provided with some type of warning before an emergency situation effects the state's transportation infrastructure. The state of Florida has deployed many of the "best practices" when dealing with weather related incidents such as hurricanes. According to the U.S Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) classifies three distinct phases in transportation evacuation preparedness and response:

Phase I- Preparedness and Activation.

The first best practice the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) conducts is a pre-storm polling of gas stations along major evacuation routes and pushes fuel to critical emergency response functions. A Florida law passed in 2006 which requires gas stations along an evacuation route to have an emergency generator to allow for the pumping of fuel even if the power is out in an area.

Phase II - Response

The next best practice is at the time of the disaster many of the emergency agencies including Multi-disciplined Evacuation Coordination Team, convenes at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Tallahassee to coordinate/listen to local officials. They assemble 48 hours before landfall of a storm such as a hurricane and also on an as-needed basis for other emergencies requiring an evacuation. During a hurricane, the FDOT Transportation Statistics Office activates real-time data collection for its Traffic Monitoring Site (TMS) network, which provides volume and speed information from stations scattered across the state. Other traffic management activities would be handled regionally by the seven Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) districts and by FDOT staff that are stationed at the SEOC. Finally, the emergency agencies would make use of the 511 Systems to provide emergency Information which would be made available to states and local jurisdictions across the country. The state of Florida currently uses this system to provide emergency information, including evacuation information, when necessary.

Phase III – Re-Entry and Return to Readiness

The final best practice is regarding the re-entry process. This process is responsible for responding to medical and other community needs, and recovery activities such as search and rescue and damage assessment. Also, repairs will be necessary to allow evacuee re-entry. FDOT has set an aggressive performance expectations for its Districts for response and recovery activities. The purpose is to provide the quickest and most complete response, prioritize resources, and to identify areas for future improvement in response and recovery activities. Finally, the FDOT would use multiple communication channels to disseminate human services, travel advisory, and re-entry information after an incident. This is important because once an evacuee has left an area, it is difficult to know what methods of communication will reach them in their temporary location.

Florida is the front runner in hurricane preparedness, response, and re-entry. Experience has proven to help educate the state with the development of best practices in the evacuation and response procedures.

Federal Highway Administration (2009) Good Practices in Transportation Evaluation Preparedness and Response, ntl.bts.gov/lib/38000/38800/38823/fhwahop09040.pdf

T I M TEAM WEBSITE!
www.swfltim.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