



12<sup>th</sup> Edition

Charlotte-Sarasota-Manatee Traffic Incident Management Team

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#### Upcoming Events:

TIM Team Meeting – April 10, 2007  
TIM Team Meeting – June 12, 2007  
TIM Team Meeting – August 14, 2007

## NTIMC Releases Proposed National Unified Goal

The National Traffic Incident Management Coalition (NTIMC) released the Proposed National Unified Goal (NUG) for Traffic Incident Management in March 2007.

Our TIM Teams, already being leaders in this national initiative, have greatly influenced the direction for other states to follow. Ted Smith, John O'Laughlin and John Sparks are not only the leaders of our TIM Teams, but committee members in the NTIMC.

What is the National Unified Goal? The Traffic Incident Management National Unified Goal is:

- Responder safety
- Safe, quick clearance; and
- Prompt, reliable interoperable communications

You can download the Proposed NUG, and an accompanying document that provides more detail about NUG strategies at the following address:

<http://www.transportation.org/sites/ntimc/docs/Proposed%20National%20Unified%20Goal.pdf>

NTIMC will achieve the three major objectives of the National Unified Goal through 18 strategies. Key strategies include recommended practices for multidisciplinary TIM operations and communications; multidisciplinary TIM training; goals for performance and progress; promotion of beneficial technologies; and partnerships to promote driver awareness.



### 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.*

## Alligator Towing Ready for any Incident

Alligator Towing of Ft. Myers recently took delivery of a 60 Ton Jerr-Dan Rotator. According to General Manager Frank Gentilquore, this massive vehicle can handle just about anything on the road. "We wanted the biggest and baddest one out there", said Frank. This truck, which has been used about a dozen times, has five winches with a total of 195,000 pounds of pulling power, an 8000 watt light tower, and a 12 kilowatt hydraulic generator. It was recently used for a dump truck rollover on I-75, and has been used to lift cement mixers and bulldozers. Equipment like this will play an important role in the Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) program discussed in recent TIM meetings.

The truck requires a level 3 certified operator, of which Alligator has three. According to Frank, fully outfitted, this unit is worth close to a million dollars.



## RTMC Breaks Ground !

Construction work began in February on the Regional Transportation Management Center. Built specifically to serve as the information hub of Traffic Incident Management and staffed by FHP dispatch, FDOT traffic operations and 511 operators. The RTMC will be connected via fiber optic communications with local Traffic Management Centers in Florida and new technology tools for Intelligent Traffic Systems such as vehicle detectors, cameras, call boxes, and transportation affiliated communications. The member agencies of TIM Teams will benefit greatly when the RTMC is operational. The public we serve will realize great benefits through reduced congestion and advance notice of incidents which impact traffic conditions.

## EMS Landing Zones

A current TIM Team initiative is exploring responder safety and helicopter response to injury traffic incidents along the I-75 corridor.

Air ambulance programs are vital components of EMS programs, providing rapid transport of high priority patients. Accommodating helicopter landings presents special challenges to ground responders.

The TIM Team is focusing on two areas. One is identifying and pre-establishing landing zones (LZ) along the corridor. Innovative ideas, such as preparing median emergency crossovers as suitable landing zones, are being explored.

The other focus is developing TIM Team guidelines for responder safety awareness and augmented traffic incident management understanding. Communication through TIM Teams will facilitate the concept of safety as paramount. If you can help with these initiatives, contact Don Olson (don.olson@dot.state.fl.us or 863-519-2274).

Some safety basics for responders:

- Landing zones should be approximately 100' x 100' in size on flat terrain. The LZ should be clear of debris and loose soil, and free of overhead obstructions, wires or trees. Other responders and personnel should be at least another 100' from the landing zone.
- Follow the direction of the flight crew for all movement around the aircraft. Never approach the helicopter until signaled by the flight crew.
- Approach the aircraft from the front or sides, never from the rear, and always within full view of the pilot. Keep low when approaching the aircraft.
- Stay clear of the tail rotor!
- No running or smoking
- Use eye and ear protection if available



*"Typically, EMS or Fire Department personnel are responsible for establishing the landing zone."*



## 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 Charlotte-Sarasota-Manatee 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.*

## 511 Deployment is on Schedule

The Florida Department of Transportation's Southwest Florida 511 Travel Information Service is scheduled to launch April 11, 2007. The service, which is available anytime 24 hours a day 7 days a week, will provide traffic and travel information for 31 major roads in Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties including I-75 and US 41. In addition, the system provides severe weather and evacuation information along with AmberAlerts, construction, and lane closure updates. Users can also receive information provided by Southwest Florida International Airport, Charlotte County Transit, Lee Tran and Collier Area Transit.

511 is a free service by the FDOT to enhance safety on our roadways and to communicate with motorists before they are caught in traffic congestions. 511 operators will confirm incident occurrence and clearance with TIM Team member agencies to ensure reporting accuracy. To get the word out, the FDOT is planning a media event and system demonstration on April 11 at 10:00 AM, to be held at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Building, 4700 Terminal Drive, Suite 6, Fort Myers, Florida 33907. In addition, the public information consultant will be placing a large banner on Germain Arena, which faces I-75 in Estero between Ft. Myers and Naples. The banner will hang for 6 months. According to a recent traffic study more than 80,000 cars pass by Germain arena each day. There will also be billboard placement on two Lee Tran buses for an image similar to the banner that will be hung at the arena. Lee Tran will provide space for the billboards for as long as possible, until a paying advertiser requests the same space. Both of these "advertising" opportunities have come about with only the cost of material production attached. Both Lee Tran and the arena are donating the space. Bumper stickers have also been created that will be placed on all local DOT fleet vehicles.