



Heartland Counties Traffic Incident Management Team

*January 7, 2025
Meeting Minutes*

Call to Order: The Heartland County TIM Team meeting was held virtually on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 1:00 PM. Tom Arsenault and Brandy Boccuti facilitated the meeting.

Introductions: The team members provided their name and agency in the chat box for introductions and meeting attendance record.

Brandy Boccuti, Metric Engineering, kicked off the meeting by reviewing the meeting agenda and guidelines.

Agency News:

Towing and Wrecker News

No agency updates

Other Agency News

DeSoto County Fire Rescue thanked the TIM Team for the recent command training and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between responding agencies during major incidents in rural areas.

Highlands County Fire Rescue expressed appreciation for the discussion around helicopter landing zone coordination and noted that their crews are focusing on response time improvements for remote crash locations.

Hardee County Sheriff's Office shared that they are working with FDOT on identifying recurring hot spots along SR 64 and SR 66 and plan to review crash trends with their traffic division.

FHP – Troop C and Troop F provided feedback on incident coordination and highlighted the importance of early communication during large-scale events. They also thanked the Road Rangers for their quick assistance during recent events.

Polk County Traffic Operations reminded the team of upcoming signal timing reviews taking place in Lake Wales and Winter Haven, and encouraged agencies to report any known intersection issues that could impact incident clearance.

Update on TIM Initiatives:

Tom Arsenault, Metric Engineering, reminded the team about the purpose of the TIM Meeting.

- TIM is the coordinated detection, response to and removal of traffic incidents as quickly and safely as possible. TIM is a coordinated effort among multiple agencies.
- The primary purpose of TIM is to reduce the duration and impact of incidents as well as to improve the safety of motorists and most importantly our incident responders.
- The TIM Meeting is to help prop up the communication, coordination, and collaboration among our incident responders.

Beau Baggett was introduced as the new Assistant TIM Program Manager supporting the Polk County TIM Team. Beau brings a strong background in transportation coordination and multi-agency collaboration. As part of the Metric Engineering team, Beau will work alongside Program Manager Tom Arsenault and TIM Coordinator Brandy Boccuti to support incident management initiatives, facilitate meetings, and assist in growing regional TIM participation.

Beau shared a few words during the meeting, expressing enthusiasm for working with local agencies and contributing to efforts that enhance responder safety and reduce roadway incident impacts. The team welcomed him and looks forward to his involvement in future meetings and initiatives.

Tom Arsenault, Metric Engineering, presented to the team a training module for the January meeting, which focused on Command Responsibilities at the Scene of a traffic incident. The training emphasized the use of the Incident Command System (ICS) to ensure safe and coordinated response operations.

The topics reviewed included the following:

- The importance of establishing a Unified Command when multiple agencies are on scene
- The assignment and structure of ICS roles, including Incident Commander, Safety Officer, Public Information Officer, and Operations Section Chief
- The proper identification and use of staging areas for apparatus and personnel
- The necessity of an Incident Action Plan (IAP) for complex or extended-duration incidents
- Best practices for maintaining a clear chain of command and communication flow

Attendees discussed challenges seen in the field, including confusion over roles, scene crowding, and communication breakdowns. The training served as a reminder of the importance of early coordination, role clarity, and pre-planning to promote responder safety and traffic clearance efficiency.

After Action Reviews (AAR) provide agencies with actionable intel on an incident or event that can be used for improved strategies for future occurrences, demonstrating the benefit of quick clearance practices and improve cross-agency coordination and communication.

AARs were performed on the following recent major incidents:

11/12/2024

US 27 near Lake Placid

Incident Details:

- 14:56:10 Multi-vehicle crash involving overturned truck.
- 14:58:25 First responder arrived on scene.
- 15:04:38 Lane closures initiated.

- 15:26:42 Incident command requested additional resources.
- 16:15:00 Wrecker services began recovery.
- 17:40:20 Final clearance reported.
- Total incident duration: 2 hours, 44 minutes, 10 seconds

11/22/2024

US 98 at SR 66

Incident Details:

09:18:00 Crash with entrapment reported.

- 09:19:44 Fire rescue dispatched.
- 09:27:00 Units on scene confirmed multiple injuries.
- 09:33:15 Extrication in progress.
- 10:08:55 Patient transported via air.
- 10:49:20 All lanes reopened.
- Total closure time: 1 hour, 31 minutes, 20 seconds

11/24/2024

US 27 near Highlands Hammock State Park

Incident Details:

- 19:03:33 Vehicle struck a guardrail and overturned.
- 19:06:10 First responder on scene.
- 19:09:47 FHP and EMS notified.
- 19:23:50 Roadway blocked in both directions.
- 20:12:00 Vehicle recovery completed.
- 20:30:11 All lanes reopened.
- Total closure time: 1 hour, 26 minutes, 38 seconds

FDOT Construction Update

The team was provided with recent construction updates. The FDOT District 1 weekly construction updates are also available to all first responders by request to Janella Newsome, FDOT, Janella.Newsome@dot.state.fl.us or by calling (863) 519-2828.

Future Meetings:

The next Heartland County TIM Team will be April 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned

*The list of attendees is attached to these meeting minutes.

As always, please continue to visit the TIM Team website for updates, and help support our TIM Team by providing the TIM Team website to others that may be interested in joining our team! <http://www.swfltim.org/>

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Brandy Boccuti, Metric Engineering, Inc. at (407) 949-4283 or via email at brandy.boccuti@metriceng.com

Name	Email
Abraham, Jeff	Jeff.Abraham@dot.state.fl.us
Amy Marrero	AMarrero@arcadia-fl.gov
Arsenault, Tom	Tom.Arsenault@dot.state.fl.us
Baggett, Beau	Beau.Baggett@dot.state.fl.us
Barraco, Carre	Carre.Barraco@dot.state.fl.us
Bartley, Cathy	Cathy.Bartley@dot.state.fl.us
Beau Baggett	beau.baggett@metriceng.com
Brandy Boccuti	Brandy.Boccuti@metriceng.com
Brian Raimondo	braimondo@Leempo.com
Campbell, Sam	Sam.Campbell@dot.state.fl.us
Capt. David Drake	ddrake@hardeeso.com
Casey, Kristin	Kristin.Casey@flhealth.gov
Christopher J. Norwood	cnorwood@hendrysheriff.org
Collier, Eric	Eric.Collier@dot.state.fl.us
Glen, David	David.Glen@FloridaDEP.gov
Hedrick Harris, Sharon	Sharon.HedrickHarris@dot.state.fl.us
Hoffman, Heidi	Heidi.Hoffman@FloridaDEP.gov
Hurst, Shari	shari.hurst@dot.state.fl.us
Idikula, Subin	Subin.Idikula@dot.state.fl.us
Joseph, Renjan	Renjan.Joseph@dot.state.fl.us
Karl Hoglund	KarlHoglund@mysebring.com
Keller, Paul	Paul.Keller@dot.state.fl.us
Kemmish, Kyle	Kyle.Kemmish@dot.state.fl.us
Kubicki, John	John.Kubicki@dot.state.fl.us
Mathes, Mark	Mark.Mathes@dot.state.fl.us
Mike McDaniel	mmcdaniel@cfrpc.org
Mikol, Ray	Ray.Mikol@dot.state.fl.us
Pringle, Penny S	Penny.Pringle@flhealth.gov
Richard Christoff	r.christoff@desotobocc.com
Richard Ranck	rranck@cfrpc.org
Robert Kingery	robert.kingery@aimmus.com
Salsbery, Kevin	Kevin.Salsbery@dot.state.fl.us
Smith, Martin	Martin.Smith@dot.state.fl.us
Steven Pollock	
Stewart, Douglas	Douglas.Stewart@dot.state.fl.us
Thomas Fort	tfort@wauchulapolice.com

Heartland TIM Team Meeting

January 2025

Tyner, Amanda	Amanda.Tyner@dot.state.fl.us
Weber, Mary	Mary.Weber@dot.state.fl.us
Willie Hills	hillsw@highlands.k12.fl.us