

TIM TEAM



11th Edition

Heartland Traffic Incident Management Team

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Upcoming Events:

Next TIM Team Meeting
 Tuesday, April 2, 2024
 1:00 pm

To join the meeting virtually, please click on the following:
[Meeting Link](#)

Or call in:
 (786) 648-4335
 Conference ID: 233 128 802



Air Methods Contributes Invaluable Insight at Heartland TIM Meeting



During the recent Heartland TIM Team Meeting led by Tom Arsenault, the TIM Program Manager, we were pleased to host a guest speaker from [Air Methods Corporation](#). The session offered a unique opportunity to explore the crucial role and support provided by Air Methods and similar organizations during traffic

incidents. These incidents can lead to severe injuries and life-threatening emergencies, highlighting the indispensable role of Medical Flight services.

Especially in the context of traffic incidents, Medical Flight teams, comprised of highly trained medical professionals and pilots, play a crucial role in supporting first responders on the ground by clearing incident scenes. These teams are on standby 24/7, poised to respond to emergencies at a moment's notice. In situations involving serious injuries resulting from traffic incidents, their swift response time becomes even more critical.



Equipped with helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft containing advanced medical equipment, Medical Flight teams can reach accident scenes rapidly, even in remote or challenging-to-reach areas. Their contribution is significant in responding to traffic incidents and providing essential care to those in need. The combination of their rapid response, advanced medical expertise, and the capability to transport patients to specialized facilities makes Medical Flight teams an indispensable component of the emergency response system.

Florida Strengthens Move Over Law to Enhance Roadway Safety



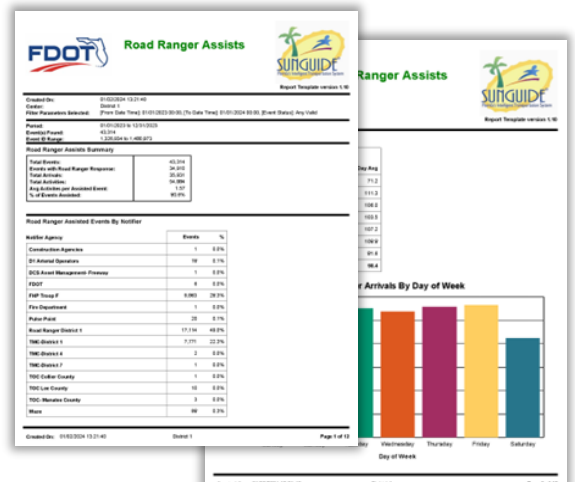
In a significant move towards bolstering roadway safety, Florida has recently updated and expanded its Move Over Law, bringing about crucial changes to protect both emergency responders and the general public. This legislative initiative aims to mitigate risks and enhance the well-being of those involved in roadside incidents.

The newly updated law, effective beginning January 1st will also include stopped vehicles that are displaying warning and hazard lights, using emergency flares or posting emergency signages and stopped vehicles with at least one person visibly present.

2023 Annual Road Ranger Assist Report

The Road Rangers play a vital role in assisting first responders on the roadways. They collaborate closely with emergency personnel, providing a valuable support system during incidents. Their seamless coordination ensures that the response time is optimized and the overall effectiveness of the emergency response is enhanced, ultimately saving lives and minimizing the impact of incidents on the roadways.

Their tireless efforts and unwavering dedication have undoubtedly made a significant impact on improving the safety and efficiency of the Florida's roadways. To view and download the 2023 Annual Road Ranger Assist report, please click on the following link: [Road Ranger Report](#)



The First 15 Minutes at a Traffic Incident



In the realm of traffic incident response, the first 15 minutes are a critical window where strategic decisions and actions can significantly impact the overall outcome of the situation. The on-scene responders plays a pivotal role during this timeframe, engaging in a series of key steps that set the stage for a well-coordinated and effective response.

Size-Up the Incident: The initial step involves a rapid and comprehensive size-up of the incident. This includes assessing the nature of the incident, potential hazards, and the extent of injuries. This information forms the foundation for subsequent decision-making.¹

Determine Move or Work It Strategy: The on-scene commander must make a crucial decision regarding whether to move vehicles involved to a safer location or conduct on-site operations. This determination shapes the overall strategy for managing the incident.

Assess Resource Needs: Identifying additional resources needed is imperative in the first 15 minutes. Promptly recognizing the requirements for medical personnel, fire services, hazmat teams, or law enforcement is crucial for a well-coordinated response.

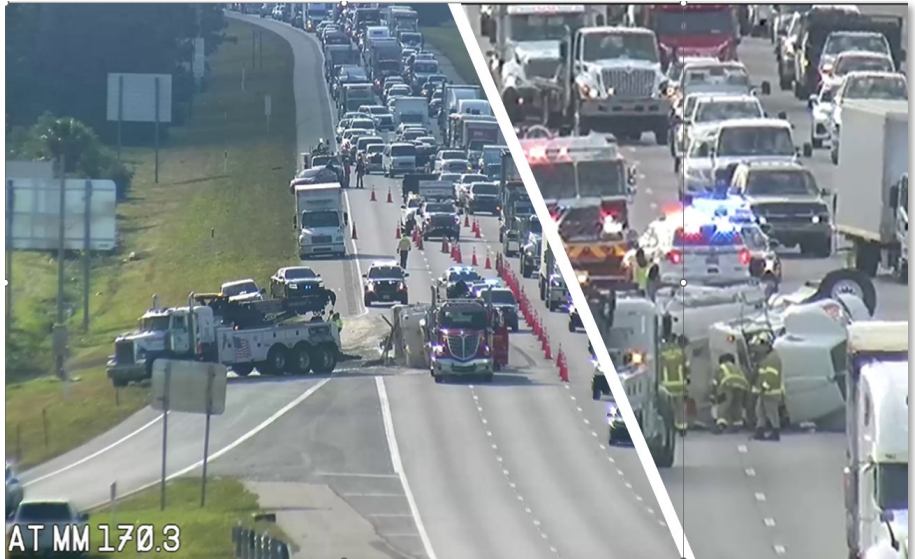
Effective Communication with Dispatch and Agencies: Clear communication is the backbone of successful incident management.

Establish Traffic Control: Protecting the work area and guiding oncoming motorists are paramount.

The Impact of Early Resource Calling: Calling in needed resources early in the response process has significant benefits. It decreases clearance times, minimizing exposure to roadside hazards for both responders and the public.

Effective Communication for Proper Operations: It ensures that proper operations are carried out, and the required resources are readily available.

Setting up Traffic Incident Management Area: Early and proper setup of a traffic incident management area is crucial. It reduces the likelihood of secondary incidents, contributing to the overall safety and efficiency of the response. Traffic control measures implemented early on create a secure working environment for responders.¹



Planning and Communication: Planning the response starts as soon as the call is received. Providing detailed information to dispatch communications is essential. This includes incident location, involved vehicles, reported conditions or hazards, responding units from various agencies, and available additional resources. Continuous communication with other responding agencies ensures a cohesive and multiagency response.

In the dynamic and multifaceted realm of traffic incident response, the first 15 minutes are undeniably critical. The on-scene responders decisive actions during this timeframe set the tone for an efficient and coordinated response. From effective communication and resource assessment to traffic control and early incident operations, each step plays a vital role in mitigating risks, ensuring the safety of responders and the public, and ultimately achieving a successful resolution to traffic incidents.

Make sure to participate in the upcoming TIM Team meetings, where Tom Arsenault, TIM Program Manager, will deliver an in-depth presentation on this topic. The meeting will offer a **unique opportunity to hear and engage with other first responders** on the valuable insights shared on the topic.

(1) The First 15 Minutes at Roadway Incidents. Respondersafety.com. Web November 2023. http://ntimc.transportation.org/Documents/12.13.10_laneDesignation-2pg-printer.pdf

Article submitted by Brandy Boccuti, TIM Coordinator, Metric Engineering, Inc.

T I M TEAM WEBSITE!

www.swfltim.org

The Heartland 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 quarterly

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

