



**Polk County  
Traffic Incident Management Team**

*October 15, 2015*

*Meeting Minutes*

**Attendees:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Bill Fuller	FDOT	Rick Grube	City of Lakeland
Brandy Boccuti	Metric Engineering	Todd Riley	Stepp's Towing
Charles Stratton	Metric Engineering	Haley Clanton	Polk Co. Sherriff's
Rory Howe	Parsons	Mike Bissett	Polk Co. Sherriff's
Romona Burke	FDOT	Kevin Salsbery	FDOT
Cathie McKenzie	Gannett Fleming	Ricky Thomas	ICA
Mark Mathes	FDOT	Caroline Whigham	Stepp's Environmental Response
Angelo Rao	City of Lakeland		
Stacy Hill	FDOT		

**Call to Order:** The Polk TIM Team meeting was held on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at 10:00 AM at the Polk County Sheriff's Office Complex, Procap Room, and 1891 Jim Keene Boulevard, Winter Haven, FL 33880. Bill Fuller, and Charles Stratton facilitated the meeting.

Mr. Bill Fuller informed the Team that a new goal for the TIM meetings will be "practicing what we preach": the goal will be to keep meetings to 90 minutes!

**Introductions:** Team members introduced themselves and the agencies they represent.

**Agency News:**

Road Rangers

The Road Ranger Comment Card Annual Report - Fiscal Year 2014/2015 has been released. To read the full report, please visit the TIM team website at: <http://www.swftim.org>.

The Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) Annual Report and the Road Ranger Performance Measures Annual Report for - Fiscal Year 2014/2015 has been released. To read the full report, please visit the TIM team website at: <http://www.swftim.org>.

The team was informed that on Tuesday, Sept. 15, the Florida's Turnpike Incident Management Team lost one of our own in a tragic crash in Miami-Dade County. State Farm Safety Patrol Road Ranger Andres Garcia was assisting the Florida Highway Patrol on scene of an initial incident

when he was struck and killed by another vehicle. Mr. Garcia was a nine-year veteran with Florida Turnpike Services (FTS).

### Towing and Wrecker News

The Towing agency discussed with the team their concerns with the Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) program in regards to when an incident should be issued a RISC incident. There were a couple recent incidents that fell under the RISC guidelines. However, the incident was not issued a RISC and also vice versa. There were incidents that may not have meet the RISC guidelines but was called out as a RISC. The concern of the team is to continue to have success with the RISC program which has shown to help meet the Open Road Policy of 90 minutes or less and also help with the safety of the responders.

### Other Agency News

The Polk Sherriff's Office has recently purchased 3D laser equipment to help aid in quicker clearance.

Law Enforcement has also had several promotions/changes of staff within the Police Department which include (1) new Colonel, (1) Lieutenant Colonel, (4) new Chiefs, and (1) new Major for Troop F, John Baumann.

Additionally, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicle's Executive Director Terry L. Rhodes announced the promotion of Gene Spaulding to become the next Florida Highway Patrol Director, effective Aug. 21, 2015. Colonel Spaulding brings 22 years of law enforcement knowledge and experience of serving the residents and visitors of Florida to this position.

### **Update on TIM Initiatives:**

#### National/State/Regional

Rory Howe presented to the team on the National Unified Goal (NUG). The National Unified Goal (NUG) for Traffic Incident Management is a unified national policy developed by major national organizations representing traffic incident responders, under the leadership of the NTIMC.

The NUG is not mandatory. It encourages State and local transportation and public safety agencies to adopt unified, multi-disciplinary policies, procedures, and practices that will dramatically improve the way traffic incidents are managed on U.S. roadways.

The NUG does not address funding; it describes what we need to do to improve traffic incident management. By joining together to pursue common goals, TIM stakeholders can leverage their opportunities to secure resources to pursue these goals.

The Detailed Explanation of [National Unified Goal document](#) provides information on how the NTIMC is working with national, State, regional, and local TIM partners to implement the NUG's 18 strategies. To view the full presentation, please visit our TIM team website at: <http://www.swftim.org>

Charles Stratton informed the team about the 2015 National Teen Driver Safety Week (NTDSW). This campaign took place October 18 - 24, 2015. NTDSW is a time designated by Congress each year to raise awareness of teen driver safety topics and to encourage safe teen driver and passenger behavior.

- Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for 15 to 19 year-olds in the United States.

- In 2013, there were 2,614 teen (15-19 year old) passenger vehicle drivers involved in fatal crashes, and an estimated 130,000 were injured.

Charles Stratton spoke to the team about the teen that created the SMART Steering Wheel. The device "snaps onto any steering wheel, and uses a patented sensing technology to encourage safe hand position and help drivers stay focused on the road. Unlike devices that simply record vehicle data, SMARTwheel™ provides real-time feedback to alert drivers to common distracted driving behaviors, allowing them to make corrections before a potential accident. It also delivers teachable insights wirelessly to a smartphone app, letting parents and teens track improvement with a simple grading system. Its smart technology combines advanced linear potentiometers with a proprietary algorithm to analyze driver hand position, contact area and motion. To learn more and to view the full video, please visit our TIM team website at: <http://www.swftim.org>

Charles Stratton informed the team about the 2015 International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference and Expo. The conference took place October 24 - 27, 2015 in Chicago, Illinois. Every year, the IACP Annual Conference and Exposition supplies you and your department with powerful advantages, bringing together an unmatched educational program, renowned keynote speakers, community-building special events and the largest collection of tactical equipment and technology solutions available for law enforcement.

Charles Stratton informed the team about the 2015 International Forum on Traffic Records and Highway Safety Information System. The conference took place October 25-28, 2015 in Costa Mesa, California. The 2015 Traffic Records Forum will focus on the transition to autonomous vehicles and its effect on traffic safety information systems. The Forum will also include our standard wide variety of topic areas of interest to traffic safety information professionals.

The video on managing non-involved persons during incidents that was produced by <http://www.respondersafety.com/>, was provided to the team. The video discussed the issues created when persons other than responders and victims are present at a roadway incident scene, bringing together topics including scene control, bystanders, family or friends of victims, and the media into a more comprehensive examination of how to handle a scene where people who are not directly involved in the incident are present. Although the problems caused by noninvolved persons have long existed, examining the issue comprehensively is an emerging area of interest that has taken on new urgency as technology and social media make it easier for people to learn about incidents and insert themselves into the scene where their presence can be distracting, disruptive, or even dangerous. Please visit the following website to view the full learning module: [www.Respondersafety.com](http://www.Respondersafety.com)

[Respondersafety.com](http://www.Respondersafety.com) is a "free" website that includes learning modules and up to date information on the traffic incident community.

Bill Fuller reviewed with the team recent Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) incidents that occurred within District 1.

The RISC program is operationally managed at the District level. The RISC Contractor has the responsibility to respond to a request of activation within 15 minutes, and arrive at the incident within a certain time negotiated, by mile marker, at the beginning of their agreement with the Department. Once on scene and provided a Notice to Proceed by the lead official on scene, the vendor will have 90 minutes to open the travel lanes for traffic. If the proper equipment arrives on scene within the negotiated time for that location, and the tower clears the travel lanes within 90 minutes, they are eligible for the bonus as outlined in the contract.

To view the full presentation of each RISC incident that was reviewed, please visit our TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>

The team was informed that the October 2015 TIM meeting would be the last meeting for Bill Fuller, ITS Traffic Incident Management Project Manager, as he will be retiring the end of November 2015. Mr. Fuller has been a true champion for the TIM teams and we appreciate his service and dedication he has given to our District One TIM team.

### **FDOT Construction Update**

#### ***Active Construction:***

No updated information was provided by the TIM Team.

#### ***Completed Construction:***

No updated information was provided by the TIM Team.

#### ***Anticipated Future Construction:***

No updated information was provided by the TIM Team.

Additional construction information is available on the FDOT Road Watch website located at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/publicinformationoffice/D1/news/newsreleases/default.shtm>.

This resource is updated on a weekly basis.

### **Future Meetings:**

The next Polk County TIM Team will be January 14, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Polk County Sheriff's Office Complex, Procap Room, and 1891 Jim Keene Boulevard, Winter Haven, FL 33880

As always, please continue to visit the TIM Team website for updates, and also 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 the District One TIM Team Manager, Mr. Bill Fuller at (239) 225-1915 or via email at [william.fuller@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:william.fuller@dot.state.fl.us)