



**Polk County**  
**Traffic Incident Management Team**

*January 13, 2010*  
*Meeting Minutes*

**Attendees:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Henry Hays	511 Tampa	Kevin Salsbery	FDOT
Bruce Hutcheson	DBI Services	Allan Carter	FHP
Ted Smith	Delcan Corporation	Jim Hilbert	FTE
Ben Skidmore	Eagle - SWS	Shawna Slate	Metric Engineering, Inc.
Domenic Letobarone	FDEP	Charles Stratton	Metric Engineering, Inc.
Chris Birosak	FDOT	Mike McArthur	Stepp's Towing
Ezra Folsom	FDOT	Jimmy Sowell	SWS First Response
Patricia Kirby	FDOT	Dean Empie	Transfield Services

**Call to Order:** The Polk County TIM Team meeting was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 10:00 AM at the University of South Florida Polytechnic, 3433 Winter Lake Road, Lakeland, Florida. Charles Stratton and Ted Smith facilitated the meeting.

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

**Update on TIM Initiatives:**

Newsletter

Charles encouraged all attendees to verify and update, if necessary, all of the contact information on the sign-in sheet in order to ensure that all attendees will receive the newsletters or any TIM related email news.

511 Next Generation

The next generation of 511 technology was deployed in June 2009. Charles encouraged the TIM Team to participate in 511 notifications and to pass it along to others who may benefit from the service. An instructional handout was available at the meeting. There were no updates from 511 Operations. Team members who have utilized the system are finding the text messages to their cellular telephones and emails beneficial.

Tampa Bay SunGuide Center

No update was provided for the Tampa Bay SunGuide Center. Chris Birosak announced that the FDOT District One's new regional traffic management center near Ft. Myers, SWIFT SunGuide Center, is "going live" Tuesday, January 19, 2010. Because the SWIFT SunGuide Center is being implemented in stages, the 511 data is not being entered by the Center, but

they anticipate rolling this process over during the course of the next 30-60 days. Traffic.com will be maintaining the 511 system until that time.

### Road Rangers

No Road Rangers were present for the meeting. Charles and Chris mentioned the surveys for the responders that were recently distributed. The results will be tallied by Central Office and will be distributed to the individual districts. The survey is available on the TIM Team website located at <http://www.swftim.org>.

Chris also mentioned that the modified schedules for the road rangers over the holidays seem to have been received positively.

### Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) & Tow Industry News

The 2010 Florida Independent Tow Show will be held at the State Fairgrounds in Tampa March 25, 2010 through March 28, 2010. Further information can be found at <http://www.tampafits.com>.

Additionally, PWOFF is hosting the 2010 Florida Tow Show® at the Hilton Hotel located in the Walt Disney World Resort April 15, 2010 through April 18, 2010. Further information can be found at <http://floridatowshow.com>.

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise reports great results with the RISC program. Due to the economic climate there has been drastic reductions in the commercial vehicle crashes, although the Motor Carrier Compliance unit have noted they are seeing an increase in the number of vehicles being placed "out of service" due to poor maintenance.

### Training

The TIM Team watched the second module of the video *TIMe4 Safety*, and the team will continue to view one module per TIM meeting.

### Other National, State, and Regional Items to Note:

Las Vegas is initiating a new program whereby consultants will man "Incident Response Trucks" on behalf of the Department of Transportation, in the event of the medium to large size incidents.

StateFarm has recently become a sponsor of Georgia's HERO program, similar to Florida's Road Rangers. Five other firms competed for this opportunity, showing that there is growing interest in this sort of public/private program.

Also, Georgia is in the second year of a program similar to RISC called TRIP in the metropolitan Atlanta area. Originally the Time Task Force TRIP program encompassed 9 counties, but has been expanded in the region to include 15 counties. Additionally, Georgia has increased the wrecker specifications, training requirements, and response requirements for statewide rotation wreckers to match those of the TRIP program, but without the use of the incentive.

The State of Tennessee has expanded their incident management programs to now include service patrols in each of their four major cities. They are also looking into an IRT program for interstate roadways in rural areas. All Tennessee programs are run without the assistance of contractors.

Toronto has shown interest in adopting a program similar to Florida's RISC program. They have been experiencing commercial vehicle crash problems on their freeways and toll facilities incurring road closures longer than 6 hours.

Federal Highway Administration has updated and released the new Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Copies can be found at <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/> One large chapter is incorporated to include information specifically related to the "temporary traffic control for work zones," and within that chapter, they have guidelines outlined for incident management. More information will be forthcoming at future meetings, especially as it relates to the reduction of secondary crashes and increasing site safety.

National objectives for the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) state that each fire truck has five cones on it and training their personnel on how to use them. Other new NFPA regulations call for the marking of red or yellow reflective material on the rear of all fire equipment.

The I-95 Corridor Coalition has developed a new training program called the "Traffic Incident Management Tool-Kit" which is a workshop-based training program for all responders. District IV will be hosting the Law Enforcement workshop in Ft. Lauderdale very soon, and Ted suggests we investigate asking that this workshop be presented in District I. The Fire Rescue portion of the program is still under development.

### **Review of Recent Major Incidents**

Charles stated that more emphasis will be placed on the review of incidents in the upcoming meetings. Ted emphasized the learning and training values of reviewing major incidents.

A brief discussion occurred regarding previous incidents on US 27. A team member mentioned responders expressed concerns regarding the long delays receiving detour signage, neighbor complaints, diversion route traffic problems, and interagency cooperation. Additional concerns were expressed when there are limited law enforcement personnel, but long-term needs are required. Law enforcement agencies are looking for financial relief to fund salaries for hire-back officers in these times, and are seeking resolution to this issue. Charles encouraged these members to talk internally within their agencies and to have their agency correspond with the Florida Department of Transportation.

Brief discussion also occurred regarding the I-4 Sinkhole that recently opened in District VII.

### **Presentation**

Domenic Letogarone of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection provided a presentation regarding the *Bureau of Emergency Response*. Presentation materials will be available on the TIM Team website located at <http://www.swftim.org>.

Ted Smith of Delcan Corporation provided a presentation regarding *Vehicle Fluid Spill Mitigation*. Presentation materials will be available on the TIM Team website located at <http://www.swftim.org>.

### **Strategic Direction for TIM Teams 2010**

As a part of the TIM in '10 Initiative, the North Florida TPO has partnered with law enforcement, fire rescue, transportation and towing entities in north Florida to jointly develop a module-based training DVD and handbook named *TIMe4 Safety*. This training contains five modules, approximately five to ten minutes in length. Topics include Traffic Control, Scene Safety, and Incident Management. The TIM in '10 Initiative goal is to have every responder go through this video and text-book training.

Additionally in 2010, more interaction between Team members is desired. This can be achieved by utilizing the many resources available on the TIM Team website located at <http://www.swftim.org>.

### **Open Forum**

No open forum items were presented.

### **Future Meetings**

The next Polk County TIM Team meeting will be April 15, 2010 at the University of South Florida Polytechnic, 3433 Winter Lake Road, Lakeland, Florida. **Reminder newsletters will be published in mid-January 2010.**