



**Polk County
Traffic Incident Management Team**

*Team Meeting
December 11, 2008
Meeting Minutes*

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Dan Bartle	Polk County Fire	Robert Pitman	Polk County Fire
Scott Bauer	EMS/IMS	Ken Staub	SWS First Response
Bruce Best	Flint's Wrecker Service	Todd Stepp	Stepps Towing
Rob Blakely	SWS	Gary Weiss	ACT
Dean Empie	VMS, Inc.	Harry Whitney	Road Rangers
Henry Hays	511 Tampa/traffic.com	Cinthy Williams	FHP
Byron Moore	Bartow Fire Dept	David Yagen	IMS
Mike McArthur	ACE Wrecker	Gary Zipprer	DOF
Mike Meehan	511	Ted Smith	Delcan Corp
Patrick Odum	FDOT	Don Olson	FDOT
		Catalina Echeverri	VANUS

Call to Order: The Polk County TIM Team meeting was held on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 9:30 AM at the Lakeland Florida Highway Patrol Station (Florida Driver License Division) 3247 Lakeland Hills Blvd. (SR 33) Lakeland, FL 33805. Ted Smith and Don Olson facilitated the meeting.

Introductions: Don Olson introduced himself and welcomed all the attendees to the Polk County TIM meeting. Don asked TIM team members to introduce themselves and share any news from the agencies they represent.

Update on TIM team initiative:

511 Statewide System

The next generation of 511 is close to completion and will be an integrated "Statewide" Florida 511. The new FL 511 system provides an improved service to motorists with both English and Spanish versions and greater accuracy for timely communication, includes I-4, US17, US98, SR60 and US27, in Polk County. Additionally, the FL 511 will allow users to have up to 10 customized routes with automatic alerts via email or cell phone if there is an incident along their route.

Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC)

Next week Stepp's Towing will begin their contract with FDOT District 7 to cover all of I-4 in Polk County. District 7 TMC has developed PowerPoint training presentation for law enforcement officers which has been provided to FHP Troopers. Versions of the training will be distributed via CDs or at scheduled presentations.

Road Rangers

The new M/A-Com portable radios are in and the Road Rangers have 2 channels for talk group communication. There is a statewide mutual aid channel that could be used to communicate with on-scene Troopers and Fire/Rescue as well. It was stated that the mutual aid channels do not always work as intended because so many people are talking at the same time. Don suggested planning an exercise for the next TIM Team meeting. These radios will be used to facilitate direct communication between the Road Ranger and the Trooper(s) or Deputies responding to a traffic incident. The maximum distance the radios can communicate is approximately 1 mile.

Don stated that there are remaining funds available for one additional Road Ranger on I-4. Don asked TIM Team members for input on what could be the best hours of operation for this additional Road Ranger. Harry Whitney suggested a week starting on Wednesday to have the Road Ranger available on the weekends. FHP would like the help on the weekends and evenings since the trooper covering the evening shift often receives calls for fuel. Road Ranger's approach is to respond to incidents as soon as they occur. A paper will come up in the spring and will be available for anybody looking for funding justification.

HAZMAT Response Video

Don Bartle from the Polk County Fire Department presented a video to the TIM Team about the Polk County SWAT Team handling hazardous materials. The video can be found on the TIM Team website, www.swftim.org, under 'Document Archives'.

For the Mitigation of Accidental Discharges of Motor Vehicle Fluids

Ted Smith presented to the TIM Team set of guidelines concerning the handling of commercial vehicle crashes and fluid spills. These guidelines were developed by the Florida Highway Patrol. The USDOT regulated the definition of hazardous materials. As an example of an incident, a couple of weeks ago in Ft. Myers there was an incident with a spill of approximately 60 gallons of diesel fuel and 100 gallons of hydraulic oil spread out over a half-mile of roadway. Last year in Palm Beach County, I-95 was closed between 5 and 7 hours because of the spill of hazardous materials and nobody wanted to become responsible for additional spills and clean-up. When on a scene anyone can take action to start clean up. Different materials can be used to stop and clean spills such as sand, pads, pillows, dry Portland cement, oil dry and even dirt. The responsible party is responsible for paying for the clean up; the responders are not liable for the costs. Therefore there is no need to wait with the road closed. Ted asked TIM Team members to share this information with their colleagues. Ted's presentation can be found on the TIM Team website, www.swftim.org, under 'Document Archives'.

Other Initiatives

Safety vest deadline for full compliance was last month. Ted stated that the TIM Team members should make sure that everyone in the agencies is wearing them if they are working on any federal roadway. Anyone working for a private company also needs to wear the safety vest to avoid liability issues and OSHA. Standards can be found at www.respondersafety.com.

Incident Review:

Don asked TIM Team members to comment on incidents. IMS newsletter includes the description on an incident on Clermont, Florida concerning a trailer with adhesive paint. IMS crew contained the spill of 200 gallons on the roadway and 600 gallons inside the trailer.

Other Team Issues:

At the end of the meeting there was a discussion on the minimum standards for the RISC program. Ted stated that there is a list of requirements for subcontractor on the program. The I-4 Roadway RISC contract is managed by FDOT District 7 and is an open Invitation to Negotiate ... meaning that Vendors are encouraged to organize and send in the paperwork for review and negotiation. Vendors can enter into contract with the Department, and if a Wrecker/Recovery Vendor wants to become a RISC responder, the D7 management will bring in new/qualified contractors each month.

Useful web sites:

TIM Teams: www.swfltim.org

Training Material: www.respondersafety.com

Scheduled 2009 Meeting Dates:

March 12

June 11

Meeting Notes by Catalina Echeverri and Christina Florez, VANUS, Inc. (305) 823-5662