



24<sup>th</sup> Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

January 2009



## South Trail Fire & Rescue

Lee County, FL

### South Trail Fire & Rescue District implements the "HOWLER" ...

Alerting motorists to an Emergency Response Vehicle which needs to safely move through traffic with low-frequency sound waves. Emergency response vehicles dispatched to incidents have priority use of the roadway, however, must contend with the same traffic congestion as all motorists. When motorists see or hear emergency vehicle lights and sirens on the road, they know it's time to pull over and make way. The use of high visibility markings, flashing lights and loud sirens are sometimes not enough to alert motorists to their presence and intended travel route. Electronic devices help police, fire and ambulance crews get through intersections quickly by changing the traffic light - but those emergency crews say some motorists are not paying attention. Now, a high-tech addition will make it even easier for motorists to detect emergency vehicles in South Fort Myers. Even if you can't see or hear the siren, you'll be able to feel it. Officials say the sirens are ideal for cutting through a sea of traffic, and give emergency responders another tool to let drivers know an ambulance is heading their way. Drivers in south Fort Myers are going to feel a rumble in their tummies the next time a South Trail Fire & Rescue District rescue truck responds to an emergency. So even if you can't hear it, you'll be able to feel when an emergency vehicle is coming due to the new Howler sirens, designed to emit low-frequency tones that penetrate objects within 200 feet, such as cars and to alert drivers. Officials with South Trail Fire and Rescue say the "Howler" Siren sends sound waves that actually flow through a car. Howler provides deep, low frequency tones, which are able to penetrate other vehicles, alerting drivers and pedestrians of your approach. Howler is not a replacement to the vehicle's primary siren; Howler *adds* a minimum eight second penetrating burst of low frequency siren sound for use in heavy traffic, intersections or other high

### 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.*



ambient noise conditions. – Christina Florez & Don Olson (Referenced on 1/20/2008 from: <http://www.nbc-2.com/articles/readarticle.asp?articleid=23028&z=3>)

### Move Over, America *protect law enforcement and emergency responders*

"Move Over, America" is a partnership originally founded in 2007 by the National Safety Commission, the National Sheriffs' Association and the National Association of Police Organizations. Most recently, the partnership has also received the full support of the American Association of State Troopers. The campaign is the first nationally coordinated effort to educate Americans about "Move Over" laws and how they help protect the law enforcement officers who risk their lives protecting the public. "Slowing down and changing lanes to give our first responders the space they need to stay safe is the least we can do in return. It's what we must do. Move Over, America. It's the law." - Don Olson (<http://www.moveoveramerica.com/>)

#### Inside this issue:

South Trail Fire and Rescue	1
Move Over, America	1
Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)	2
Lee County Metropolitan Planning	2
Charlotte County TIM Team	2

#### Upcoming Events:

- TIM Team Meeting – March 12, 2009
- TIM Team Meeting – June 11, 2009





The Sarasota-Manatee MPO requested that the FDOT attend their 2009 meetings in January and March to provide a general overview of the TIM Team, TIM principles, TIM initiatives and TIM achievements. Don Olson and Ted Smith have attended the Sarasota-Manatee MPO Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting. Additionally, Don and Ted have been placed on the MPO Board meeting agenda for March.

**Congestion Mitigation is the 'Driving' force behind contemporary transportation planning.** The Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations goes on to state that metropolitan areas are the nation's economic engines. Almost three-quarters of our citizens live and work in these regions, which drive the nation's economy and compete head-to-head with regional economies in other countries. Because the pricing of our goods and services in the international marketplace largely determines our ability to compete successfully, we must be able to transport these goods and services efficiently. (<http://www.ampo.org/what/index.php>)

The American Planning Association has encouraged regional transportation planners to increase their participation in Traffic Incident Management Teams. A concerted effort is being made to raise awareness of the National Unified Goal as well as to bridge any gaps between transportation planning initiatives and transportation operations initiatives with respect to traffic management and congestion mitigation. Regional transportation systems management and operations (TSM&O) means an integrated program to optimize the performance of the existing infrastructure through implementation of multi-modal, cross-jurisdictional systems, services, and projects. These systems, services, and projects are designed to preserve capacity and improve security, safety, and reliability of transportation systems. **TSM&O** is an integrated program to optimize the performance of existing (and programmed) infrastructure through the implementation of multimodal, intermodal, and often cross-jurisdictional systems, services, and projects designed to preserve capacity and improve security, safety and reliability such as TIM Team strategies.—Don Olson



The Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is an intergovernmental transportation planning agency created by an agreement among Lee County, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Sanibel, Fort Myers Beach and the Florida Department of Transportation. State and federal laws require the formation of MPOs in urbanized areas with populations of more than 50,000 in order for surface transportation projects to be eligible for federal funding.

The MPO is responsible for the comprehensive transportation planning process for all of Lee County and must plan for the movement of both people and goods within the county by all modes of travel - including highways, public transportation, bicycles and foot.

The MPO develops a long-range transportation plan, identifying those highway and transit improvements that can be afforded over the next 20 years, and endorses a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that identifies projects to be done over the next five years.

The MPO's website, [www.mpo-swfl.org](http://www.mpo-swfl.org), was launched in May 2006. By October 2008, the website had over 11,100 hits. The website is updated regularly, and by visiting it, you can volunteer for appointment to citizens committees, be added to the Transportation Advisory Network (TAN) mailing list and review and comment on draft plans or documents. The website also contains meeting schedules, agendas and minutes, and further information on its Transportation Disadvantaged, Bicycle/Pedestrian and Efficient Transportation Decision Making Programs. New to the website for 2008 is a Joint Collier County MPO and Lee County MPO Webpage for regional coordination. <http://www.mpo-swfl.org/CollierLeeMPO.shtml>. - Brian V. Raimondo, Senior Transportation Planner / TIM Team member



TIM Team member agencies in Collier, Lee and Charlotte Counties are integrated in so many ways, including Intelligent Transportation System connectivity ... and now with a single unified TIM Team. The TIM Team member agencies of Charlotte County are welcomed into the Collier-Lee TIM Team beginning in 2009. We are looking forward to the added value of new insights and stakeholder perspectives that the Charlotte TIM Team members will provide to create a rich mixture of engagement for the Collier-Lee-Charlotte TIM Team. Charlotte County Traffic Operations Division has been involved in leading the TIM Team development of Diversion Route Maps and Alternative Routing Plans. - Don Olson

**T I M TEAM NEW WEBSITE!**

[www.swfltim.org](http://www.swfltim.org)

**Contact Information**

If you have any questions regarding this newsletter, or would like to submit an article, please contact Don Olson at [don.olson@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:don.olson@dot.state.fl.us).

*The Polk 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 bi-monthly.*

