



28<sup>th</sup> Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

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### Fusion Centers: Enhancing Domestic Security in Our Nation

"In developing our country's response to the threat of terrorism, public safety leaders from all disciplines have recognized the need to improve the sharing of information and intelligence across agency borders. Every law enforcement, public safety, and private sector official involved in information and intelligence sharing has a stake in this initiative. Leaders must move forward with a new paradigm on the exchange of information and intelligence." - Excerpt from *The Role of Leadership, Fusion Center Guidelines* <http://www.it.ojp.gov/default.aspx?area=nationalinitiatives&page=1181>



A fusion center is a collaborative effort of state and federal agencies working in partnership with local partners to share resources, expertise, and/or information to better identify, detect, prevent, apprehend and respond to criminal and terrorist activity utilizing an all crimes/all hazards approach. The multidisciplinary approach of a fusion center increases the awareness of potential threats and enhances what has traditionally been a law enforcement mission. There are many agencies making valuable contributions to the mission of public safety, including the public and private sector communities. Law enforcement can't be everywhere all the time, so they rely on citizens to report crime and suspicious activity to local law enforcement agencies. Some of these citizen reports may be valuable to a fusion center that is examining these reports for common trends.

<http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/Florida-Fusion-Center/FUSION-Home.aspx>

Since the tragic events of September 11th, there have been remarkable efforts on the part of law enforcement to correct the problems that impede information sharing. One of the largest barriers was the failure to analyze, collaborate and share information in a meaningful and timely manner. So to assist in the collective review of information for the purpose of detecting, preventing and preparing for threats to public health and safety, Fusion Centers have developed across the nation.

<http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/Florida-Fusion-Center/Unifying-Critical-Information---Partners.aspx>

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) was formed immediately following the trage-

gies of 9/11/2001 as an agency of the Department of Homeland Security and is responsible



Transportation Security Administration

for security of the nation's transportation systems. Together with state, local and regional partners, the TSA oversees security for the highways, railroads, buses, mass transit systems, ports and the 450 U.S. airports.

[http://www.tsa.gov/who\\_we\\_are/what\\_is\\_tsa.shtm](http://www.tsa.gov/who_we_are/what_is_tsa.shtm)

"First Observer" is a national safety and security program that uses the skills, experiences and "savvy" of America's transportation professionals to help protect the critical transportation function that moves the goods and services and people across America.



"First Observer" is operated by Team HMS under a Cooperative Agreement with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Trucking Security Program (TSP).

The program's mission is to administer an anti-terrorism and security awareness program for highway professionals in support of the National Preparedness Guidelines. A key component of the program is to recruit volunteers from the Trucking, Motor Coach Carriers and School Bus industries to act as our "First Observer" in reporting suspicious activities of either a criminal or potential terroristic nature to authorities.

<http://www.firstobserver.com/sponsors.php>



The International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) is a Team HMS partner who has direct access to over one million working members in the highway community. Teamster workers are uniquely placed throughout the nation's supply chain. These

workers include a full range of truck drivers in freight operations, school and passenger buses, highway construction, port operations, automobile transporters, food delivery and parcel delivery. They are also placed as toll booth workers, warehouse workers, car rental agencies, support services in schools, law enforcement, first responders and much more. The Teamsters have affiliate offices in nearly 500 locations throughout the country to support First Observer.

- Contributed by Don Olson

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#### Upcoming Events:

##### TIM Team Meeting :

Thursday  
October 15th, 2009  
10:00 am  
University of South Florida  
Polytechnic  
3433 Winter Lake Rd  
Lakeland, FL 33803  
Room # 1104 / 1105



## ITS DEPLOYMENTS - ENHANCING TRANSPORTATION SECURITY



What an awesome opportunity and responsibility! As we go about our daily lives - assisting a stranded motorist, treating the injured, clearing debris, re-opening a corridor to traffic after an incident or a crash - we oftentimes overlook that one of our most critical functions is as a first responder, at the forefront of the local, regional, state and national transportation security and defense team charged with safeguarding the integrity of our transportation system and infrastructure against all service disruptions, including natural disasters and terrorism acts.

Clear evidence of our effectiveness as first responders was on display during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. ITS technology was used extensively to complement field personnel during the deployment of detours for use by emergency responders and subsequently during clean-up and reconstruction efforts. For instance, on September 11, 2001, within 2

minutes of the decision to close the main bridge to New York, DMS alerted motorists up to 10 miles away! The New York Department of Transportation also quickly deployed portable DMS at the New York City bridge and tunnel entrances advising of road closures. Finally, after TRANSCOM, the regional transportation management coalition alerted the I-95 Corridor Coalition agencies of problems in the New York region, these agencies used HAR and DMS on I-95 as far south as Delaware and as far north as Connecticut to alert travelers to avoid the New York City region(1)!

FDOT is deploying permanent ITS assets to assist during hurricane evacuations and when needed to support the response to all local, regional and national emergencies impacting West, Central as well as the rest of Florida. For example, Florida residents contemplating travel during extreme weather can access the State Department of Transportation's website to view the statewide network of real-time traffic volume and speed data recorders. It also provides links to hotels in Florida, Alabama, and Georgia that allow evacuees to make online hotel reservations(2). In District 1, ITS is being deployed along the entirety of the Interstate Highway System, along principal arterial routes, within our urbanized areas, and across the critical Caloosahatchee River crossings connecting Ft. Myers and North Ft. Myers. Current deployment projects include the construction of the Southwest Interagency Facility For Transportation (SWIFT) SunGuide Center and the I-75 Freeway Management System (FMS) deployment along I-75 in Lee and Collier Counties, scheduled to become operational by 2010; the extension of the I-75 FMS across Charlotte County, scheduled for completion by 2011, and subsequent deployments into Sarasota and Manatee Counties in the 2011-2012 time frame. Several other initiatives, such as the deployment of the Incident Management System on the two bridges across the Caloosahatchee River in Lee County as well as Advanced Traffic Management Systems in Lee, Collier, Sarasota, Manatee, Polk and Charlotte Counties are currently planned, in design, under construction or operational!

These deployments provide various new and enhanced capabilities to add to the ITS mission toolbox. The more notable of these tools include the deployment of a robust inter-regional communications network providing connectivity between Regional and local Transportation Management Centers (TMC); housing local and regional law enforcement dispatch, emergency management and fire/rescue assets. This should be expected to assist the streamlining of communications and coordination between these emergency response providers. Another notable tool is the deployment of an extensive system of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras and travel time measurement devices along the interstate and other corridors. These devices assist in detecting, confirming and assessing the location and extent of incidents and accidents in order to facilitate the quickest site response with fire/rescue and clearance equipment most appropriate for the conditions captured using the camera systems.

Other ITS programs, such as the deployment of strategically placed motorist information Dynamic Message Sign (DMS) assemblies, advise motorists of actual travel conditions, including incidents, crashes, congestion, construction, weather conditions, etc. Ultimately, the DMS s assist the motorist in planning and adjusting their travel utilizing real-time information. They also provide a tool to help manage traffic during construction/maintenance work and to provide other general public services such as Amber and Silver alerts. Similarly, Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) transmitters are used to disseminate the same information, often with more detail, over the air and over a larger geographical area directly to tuning vehicles. The HAR and DMS systems can also be used to convey weather data/advisories of regional/state significance, such as hurricane evacuations as well as local area advisories using roadside weather/fog measurement detection devices. Another very effective communications and motorist information tool is the 511 real-time traveler information system deployed statewide in Florida and throughout most major metropolitan areas in the U.S.

The District One ITS program continues to aggressively deploy ITS throughout the region, and soon the benefits of the data acquisition and communication tools will be available to assist local, regional and state agencies as they discharge their incident and emergency management responsibilities with accurate and real time data that **helps save lives, time and money**.

(1). Federal Highway Administration, *Managing Demand Through Traveler Information Services*, Washington, DC: 2005. Report: [ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/manaq\\_demand\\_tis/travelinfo.htm](http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/manaq_demand_tis/travelinfo.htm)

(2). Ibid.

- Contributed by Andy Núñez, PE



### T I M TEAM NEW WEBSITE!

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

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.



### 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.