



50th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

May 2013



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Tools to Avoid Distraction	1
Local Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Has Been Signed	1
Integrating TIM Response into the Local Emergency Management Process	2

Upcoming Events:

TIM Team Meeting:

July 11, 2013

10:00 am

Polk County Sheriff 's Office
Complex Procap Room

1891 Jim Keene Boulevard

Winter Haven, FL 33880

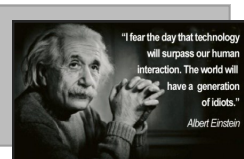


Tools to Avoid Distraction

Distraction: Are we now too busy being bombarded with instant messages and e-mails requiring our immediate attention and response that we can no longer tell when we are in danger? Are we too busy and distracted, not just when we drive, but in our daily life? Have you stopped writing emails that make multiple requests because you only get a reply to the first one at the top of the page? Have we stopped having open-ended conversations and discussions to work out solutions, as a result of technology or, are we are too busy now because of our own need for self-entertainment?

Margaret Wheatley asks in her latest article on distraction in Shambhala magazine "Are we so distracted that we can no longer pay attention to where we are and where we're going"? She reminds us that the Titanic actually went down because of distraction. The radio operator received a call from a ship surrounded by ice less than an hour before the collision and he responded "Shut up, shut up, I'm busy". The ships momentum could not be slowed to avoid the collision, by the time the iceberg was spotted by look-outs.

Distraction can affect what happens in our Traffic Incident Management communications and how we respond to crashes. Einstein said it best when he said "I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction...." If we allow technology to surpass our human interaction as Einstein suggested and the Titanic demonstrates, we are in real danger of losing our collective identity and the ability and inherent curiosity to see any situation from another point of view.



There is a way to disrupt this trend and that is "US". By meeting and training together through TIM, turning off the technology for a while, we can regain the collective spirit that comes from working together. Multi Agency first responder training is an excellent opportunity to remind us of the opinions of others, and to understand each other's perspective resulting in better decisions and improved response to any incident or disaster. As mentioned earlier training is a great tool to help in the team effort and goals of the TIM Team. There is a great event coming next month, June 2013, which all *Incident Responders* need to take advantage of. The Strategic Highway Research Program 2 (SHRP-2) is a Nationwide First Responder training your TIM Team has scheduled and will continue to host this year. SHRP-2 is an indispensable multi-agency training, to ensure responders from varying agencies work together at an incident scene and to clear the roadway as safely and as rapidly as possible given any situation. Your local TIM Team offers "Best Practices" in Incident Management. This is a venue for *First Responders* to receive and discuss



"together" the latest training information "before" they get to the incident scene. This course is geared at the "First Responder" level and will involve lectures as well as table top activities to reinforce proper techniques to be used when operating on the interstate as well as on other state and local roadways where traffic hazards abound. We are attempting to get a variety of disciplines to attend each session such as Fire and Rescue, Emergency Management Systems (EMS), Emergency Management (EM), Department of Transportation (DOT), and Wrecker recovery. The more we can diversify the group, the more it will enhance the learning experience for the participant.



Registration for the four (4) Hour First Responder SHRP-2 training event is now available. The class will be available June 11th and 12th in Bradenton, FL at the Manatee Technical Institute (Criminal Justice Academy) and also June 18th - 20th in Fort Myers at the SWIFT SunGuide

Center. The class is being offered either in the morning or afternoon. Make sure to register ASAP as these classes are limited and filling up fast!

To register for the event please visit the TIM team website at the following address:

<http://www.123contactform.com/form-577872/Train-The-Trainer-Registration-Form>

If you have any further questions please contact Bill Fuller at William.fuller@dot.state.fl.us or call (239) 225.9815.

- Article by William Fuller, District One Traffic Incident Management Project Manager.

Local Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Has Been Signed

Your multi-agency Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team has taken the initiative to establish a series of Agency Memorandums of Understanding (MOU). We believe incident response agencies have the responsibility to do whatever is reasonable to enhance the safety of our transportation system. Specifically, the agreement endorses the Statewide Open Roads Guidelines, defines incident scene roles and responsibilities, establishes a local incident scene lighting guideline and establishes a local incident communication guideline. Furthermore, we would like to announce "Great News" from our District-One Traffic Incident Management (TIM) teams and announce that our TIM Local Agency MOU has been signed and sent out to local agencies. We are very proud of the Teamwork and Coordination it took in completing this document. Thank you. As a result, we hope more agencies join the TIM Team and take advantage of national training opportunities that come our way through the National TIM program.

Integrating TIM Response into the Local Emergency Management Process



The benefits of our work are very visible, tangible and appreciated by all! Traffic Incident Management (TIM) professional response activities save lives, time and money. We take much pride in executing our work, often within rapid response environments that are framed by multiple, concurrent and in some cases, potentially hazardous situations. As if dodging high-speed traffic was not enough, we sometimes respond to situations that potentially include a wide variety of other hazardous conditions such as bio-hazards, fuel spills, toxic metals, industrial chemical liquids and fumes. Yes, this is why we are so highly trained, hold all those certifications, and carry all the safety equipment!

As one of the first responders to some of the more challenging scenarios, we have also seen first-hand how these all progress from a chaotic state of pandemonium to a structured vertical team response. These successes are due to the individual responders as well as to the continued, careful and methodical planning for responding to such events by multiple emergency management organizations such as our TIM Team members and the diverse agencies we come from.

Coordinating the activities and contributions of many local, regional, state and federal agencies takes a great deal of effort and cooperation. The myriad of institutional and interjurisdictional barriers generate issues and challenges that are only overcome by the advocacy and leadership of organizational and coordinating committees such as our Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC). These are organizations created by various congressional acts¹ and their enabling federal and state laws and statutes to assist first responders in dealing with public safety issues regarding hazardous materials. There are LEPCs in every state. There are eleven (11) LEPC Districts in Florida, funded via the Department of Community Affairs, part of the Division of Emergency Management and organized under the auspices of 11 statewide Regional Planning Councils.

Each LEPC is comprised of a variety of organizations and individuals extending from multiple fire departments, departments of environmental protection, marine port and aviation authorities, sheriff's offices, US Coast Guard and military bases, water management districts, news media outlets and private corporations, colleges and universities, hospitals, and even interested private individuals. Providing further perspective into the coordination involved in this task, District One includes three (3) LEPC Districts, Districts 7, 8 and 9. Overall, there were a total of 594 Hazardous Materials Incidents reported by these three LEPCs in 2007² alone.

It would seem like such a large aggregation of agencies and individuals would become an unmanageable bureaucracy, but we all have seen many instances demonstrating clearly how successful the unselfish dedication and cooperation of so many professionals working as one team has proven to be.



The future holds a potential threat for increased challenges to the TIM response community. Commercial Vehicle Operations (CVO) reported as far back as 2002 that there were approximately 12,000 commercial trucks a day operating along I-75 alone and that this statistic was expected to double in five years³. How many of those carry declared hazardous materials? Worse yet, how many travel with undeclared hazardous loads? The exposure to hazardous materials at a traffic incident is great and growing.

The District One TIM program proceeds aggressively towards continued support for the full integration of our TIM services into the local, regional and state incident and emergency management service provider organizations to maintain mobility and a high quality of traffic safety during all incidents and emergency response scenarios. Traffic Incident Management is such a major role of the entire emergency management and response process that the expertise of the TIM Teams is essential to include at all stages of response; from preparedness through response, recovery and mitigation.

¹ Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCRA), 42 USC 116.

² State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials. Annual Report. 2008.

³ SunGuideSM Disseminator. August 2002

Article by Scott Agans, Metric Engineering, Inc.

T I M TEAM WEBSITE!

www.swfitim.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.