



81st Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

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Upcoming Events:

TIM Team Meeting :

Thursday
April 11, 2019
10:00 am
 Polk County Sheriff's Office
 1891 Jim Keene Boulevard
 Winter Haven, FL 33880



2019 Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities



Lifesavers is the premier U.S. highway safety meeting dedicated to reducing the tragic toll of deaths and injuries on our nation's roadways. Drawing over 2,000 participants in 2016, Lifesavers continues to be the "must attend" conference since its start in 1982. Each year, Lifesavers provides a forum for the presentation of proven countermeasures and initiatives that address today's critical highway safety problems. Whether you're a state or local highway safety official, police officer or first responder, private or non-profit program provider, student or academician, Lifesavers comprehensive program is for you. The event will take place in Louisville, Kentucky on March 31-April 2, 2019.

To learn more, please visit the following website: <http://lifesaversconference.org/>

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Federal Highway Administration Knowledge Management System (KMS) Website



The KMS is a national repository of traffic incident management (TIM) resources, good practices, lessons learned, and other tools that are relevant to TIM practices for all disciplines. Practitioners will find useful resources on such topics as: Guidance and Policy, Quick Clearance Legislation Training and Outreach, Agreements, After Action Reviews (AARs), Traffic Management Center (TMC) Operations, and TIM Committee Formation and Sustainability. To access the database, please visit the following website: <http://kms.timnetwork.org/index.php>

First Responder Appreciation Award

This is a reminder of the First Responder Appreciation Award for the District One TIM teams. The award recognizes and awards first responders that go "above and beyond" their duty while responding to incidents on the local highways. The first responders are nominated by their local agencies and a board of local TIM members vote on the nominations. We encourage all TIM agencies to participate in the "First Responder

"Appreciation" award and submit their nominations at the next TIM team meeting. For additional information or if you have a first responder from your agency that you would like to nominate, please contact Brandy Boccuti, TIM Team Coordinator at bboccuti@metriceng.com.

THANK YOU
TO ALL THE FIRST RESPONDERS

Refresher Course for the National TIM Responder Training (SHRP-2) Program

A online refresher course for the National TIM Responder Training (SHRP-2) Program is now available. The course is for the responders that have already completed the (4) hour class and have received their certificate of completion.

The refresher course is a short 60 minute video that matches the objectives and content of the National TIM Responder Training program. The link <https://timtraining.org/> provides this "refresh" on the National TIM Training. At the conclusion of the video is an opportunity to download a certificate for your own training records.

What is the National Traffic Incident Management (SHRP-2) Training and why is it important to first responders? The National Traffic Incident Management Training (SHRP-2) program is building teams of highly-skilled responders who work together efficiently and effectively from their initial arrival on the incident scene to its investigation and eventual clearance. Developed through the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP-2), the training program is a collaborative effort of FHWA, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and the Transportation Research Board (TRB).



Meeting the Goal of Opening the Road in 90 minutes or Less



There has been an increase in After Action Review's (AARs) at the District One TIM Team meetings due to an increase in major traffic incidents with extensive lane closure times. The traffic incident times are lasting over 90 minutes up to 14+ hours.

Why is this a concern and a major concertation for the TIM Team? For every one minute that a lane is blocked on a major highway there is a four-mile traffic delay. Up to nine first responders may arrive at each incident; this means that up to 27 responders arrive at a new incident every minute, 1,620 responders work at traffic incidents every hour, and up to 38,880 responders work at traffic incidents every day. The result: miles upon miles of congestion, and headaches to match. It is not just time that is lost to traffic delays; lives are lost as well. In fact, cars passing a traffic incident strike and kill approximately five firefighters every year, one law enforcement officer every month, and one tow operator every week. Motorists are also at risk; every one minute a lane is closed increases the likelihood of a secondary collision by 2.8 percent, and secondary collisions, which constitute approximately 20 percent of all incidents, are often more severe than the primary ones.¹

What is our goal in clearing an incident and increasing the safety of our First Responders lives? 90 minutes or less, which comes from the [Florida Open Roads Policy](#). On January 2014, the Open Roads Policy agreement was revised and endorsed by the Executive Director of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Director of Florida Highway Patrol and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation with legal review by both FHP and FDOT. The original Open Road Policy agreement was put in place 12 years ago in November 2002.² The agreement establishes a policy to expedite the removal of vehicles, cargo, and debris from roadways on the State Highway System to restore, in an urgent manner, the safe and orderly flow of traffic following a motor vehicle crash or other incidents on Florida's roadways. The agreement was created with the following in mind: Public safety is the highest priority, 25% of non-reoccurring congestion is caused by traffic incidents, Governmental entities have responsibility to do whatever is reasonable to reduce the risk to responders, such as struck-by incidents, Secondary Crashes pose safety risks to all responders and motorist, and are mitigated by expeditious clearance, Vehicle removal & Move over-Laws, along with Safe Quick clearance, Minimize exposure to secondary crashes, and Cost and impact from traffic incident related congestion is significantly higher than the damage to vehicles and/or cargo, which may occur as a result of safe quick clearance with urgency.³

Additionally, included in the agreement is the goal that all agencies responding to incidents maintain the goal that all incidents be cleared from the roadway within 90 minutes of the arrival of the first responding officer. The goal is made with the understanding that more complex scenarios may require additional time for complete clearance. The quick clearance goal will help with the safety of incident responders by limiting their time at a scene, and reduce the risk of secondary crashes.

Faster incident clearance reduces the exposure of responders to hazardous roadside conditions, so it is a good strategy for increasing responder safety. As an added enhancement, attending the local TIM Team meetings and being a part of the After Action Reviews of major traffic incidents to discuss "lessons learned" aids in expediting future incident clearance activities.

- (1) Florida DOT Open Roads Policy: Quick Clearance for Safety and Mobility. Florida DOT. National Operations Center of Excellence. Web 01.2019. <https://transportationops.org/publications/florida-dot-open-roads-policy-quick-clearance-safety-and-mobility>
- (2) Open Roads Policies. US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. Web 11.2018. https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/aboutus/one_pagers/tim.htm
- (3) Open Roads Policy. District One TIM Team. Web 01.2019. <http://www.swfltim.org/index.html>

Article submitted by Brandy Boccuti, Metric Engineering



T I M TEAM WEBSITE!
www.swfltim.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

