



96th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

July 2021



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Upcoming Events TIM Team Meeting:

Thursday October 14, 2021 10:00 am



The VIRTUAL National First Responder (SHRP2) Training

Recently the District One Traffic Incident Management (TIM) team successfully trained over 75 first responders virtually, within a one day period, through the National Traffic Incident Management (SHRP-2) Responder Training Program.

The training was developed BY RESPONDERS - FOR RESPONDERS, with the national objective that responders acquire a common set of core competencies that promote a shared understanding of the requirements for achieving the safety of responders and motorists, quick response, and effective communications at traffic incident scenes.

The benefits of the national training includes:

- A unified, multidisciplinary approach that promotes a more effective incident response.
• Lessons in new multiagency standards and best practices.
• An opportunity for responders from multiple disciplines to breakdown communication barriers and begin to work more effectively together.

Participants received a National TIM Responder Training certificate from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) after completing the training.

If you or someone in your agency are interested in the training, please contact Brandy Boccuti, TIM Team Coordinator, at bboccuti@metriceng.com.



Going Above the Call of Duty Recognition for District One Road Ranger



While all of our responders from our District One TIM teams risk their lives every day, and our members are more successful when they work as a team, individuals are recognized for actions that go "above the call of duty." On June 9, 2021 Road Ranger Reinaldo Rivera was on patrol when he stopped at a vehicle that was southbound I-75 near Mile Marker 68 on Alligator Alley. Mr. Rivera advised that the driver seemed lost and confused and did not know where he was. The drivers car would not run and there was no air conditioning. Mr. Rivera immediately notified the FDOT dispatch and the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) which notified the Collier County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office stated they were in the process of investigating the possibility of a missing persons, Silver Alert Report, for the driver. Mr. Rivera was advised to remain on the scene until the Sheriff's Office or FHP trooper arrived. Mr. Rivera stayed with the driver and provided bottled water. The Collier County Fire Department and EMS arrived, as well as a Trooper. EMS transported the driver to a local hospital. FHP advised the driver had dementia and had previously been reported as a Silver Alert back in 2019.

Throughout this event, Road Ranger Reinaldo Rivera was calm, kind, and effective in communicating with the TMC Operator and the driver. We would like to thank Mr. Rivera and all Road Rangers for their outstanding work!

**Get Involved In the First Responder Community**

TIM Teams are active in all FDOT Districts. The teams review past response actions and explore ways that incident management can be improved. These teams also conduct training for incident responders and are active in traffic management planning for special events.

The seven FDOT Districts and the Florida Turnpike Enterprise facilitate 25 TIM teams in 43 Florida counties. The teams are open to all responders and there is no cost to attend meetings.



How did Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Teams Start? Starting in January 1985, and for about ten years, the Freeway Operations Committee and the Travelers Services Committee of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) sponsored the Freeway Incident Management (FIM) Specialties Conferences. Later, the Law Enforcement Committee also helped with the conferences. These conferences had presentations on how to manage and respond to freeway incidents and organized so the attendees from multi-agencies could review and study cases of actual freeway incidents that had previously occurred. FIM sessions usually provided time for 4 to 6 speakers to present how their states or cities planned for responding to freeway incidents when they

occurred. The FIM conference goal was to share information among organizations that would make the lost time to motorists shorter and roadways safer during periods of traffic disruptions. Today, multi-agency and involvement in the first responder community remains the key to efficient TIM Teams.

Another team that is a great resource for outreach in the first responder community and shares some of the same goals as the TIM Team is the Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST). The CTSTs are locally based, data-driven groups of highway safety advocates that are committed to a common goal of improving traffic safety in their communities.

CTSTs are multi-jurisdictional, with members from city, county, state, and occasionally federal agencies, as well as private industry representatives and local citizens. CTSTs boundaries are determined by the organizations comprising the team and can be a city, a portion of a county, an entire county, multiple counties, or any other logical arrangement.

Integrating the efforts of the 4 "E" disciplines that work in highway safety, (Engineering, Enforcement, Education/Public Information, and Emergency Services) is also encouraged. By working together with interested citizens and other traffic safety advocates within their communities, the CTSTs help to solve local traffic safety problems and promote public awareness of traffic safety best practices through campaigns that educate drivers, motorcyclists, pedestrians, and bicyclists about the rules of the road.



**Community Traffic Safety Team**

The TIM Team Program supports and recommends that all of those involved in traffic safety support and attend their local CTST Program.

If you are interested in participating in a local CTST Team Meeting or would like additional information, please contact Theresa Chestnut, CTST Coordinator, at [Theresa.Chestnut@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Theresa.Chestnut@dot.state.fl.us) and/or 863-519-2671.

Please also click on the following link to view the CTST meeting calendar for upcoming meeting in your area: <https://e4safetyfl.com/calendar/category/ctstmeetingcalendar/>

Article submitted by Tom Arsenault, Metric Engineering, Inc.

**T I M TEAM WEBSITE!**

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

