



71st Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

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**Next TIM Team Meeting:**

Central District Headquarters  
3635 Avenue G NW  
Winter Haven, FL 33880  
10:00 AM

- April 13, 2017



**Responder Recognition for Service and Dedication to the TIM Community**

The Florida Department of Transportation and the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) team presented an award at the recent TIM team meeting to Mark Crawford, Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District, in recognition of his service and dedication to saving lives on the highways and for his support for the District One TIM team.

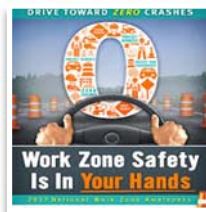


In 2013, over a four week period, the District One TIM team graduated over 496 first responders in National Traffic Incident Management (SHRP-2) Training. A large percentage of the SHRP-2 trainings took place at the Southern Manatee Fire and Rescue District, which was accomplished because of Mr. Crawford's efforts and dedication to safety for our first responders.

Mr. Crawford has been a driving force in the TIM Community and we wish him the best in his well deserved retirement.

**National Work Zone Awareness Month**

The 2017 National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 3-7, 2017. The National Work Zone Awareness Week is an annual spring campaign held at the start of construction season to encourage safe driving through highway work zones. The theme of this year's event is "Work Zone Safety is in Your Hands." The key message is for drivers to use extra caution in work zones.



To learn more, please click on the following link: [https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/outreach/wz\\_awareness.htm](https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/outreach/wz_awareness.htm)

**The National Traffic Incident Management (SHRP-2) Training is Coming to the District One TIM Team**

After receiving a large number of requests from our District One TIM team community, the National Traffic Incident Management (SHRP-2) Training is coming to the District One Traffic Incident Management (TIM) team!



The Traffic Incident Management (SHRP-2) Training was developed *BY RESPONDERS - FOR RESPONDERS*, with the objective that nationally, 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.

**UPCOMING TRAININGS**

**LEE COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**  
2675 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida 33905  
Monday, May 15, 2017

**MANATEE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT**  
2101 47th Terrace East, Bradenton, Florida 34203  
Tuesday, May 16, 2017

The (4) hour class will include lectures as well as table top activities. The target audiences for the course are those who have the responsibility as "First Responders" to a crash or incident on our Florida roadways. Participants will receive a National TIM Responder Training certificate from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) after completing the training.

**Registration for the training will be sent out to the TIM teams.** Please also keep a look out for additional upcoming training classes in the Spring for the Polk County area and also North Port Florida.

If you or someone in your agency are interested in the training, please contact Brandy Boccuti, TIM Coordinator, at [bboccuti@metriceng.com](mailto:bboccuti@metriceng.com)

### April is National Distracted Driving Month



April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, making this an opportune time to revisit the topic and reevaluate our current efforts to change driving attitudes and habits.

Distracted driving is one of the fastest growing safety issues on the roads today. Distracted drivers aren't just a threat to themselves; they're a danger to everyone else on the road. The national distracted driving effort focuses on ways to change the behavior of drivers through legislation, enforcement, public awareness, and education.<sup>1</sup>

The popularity of mobile devices has had some unintended and sometimes deadly consequences. An alarming number of traffic accidents are linked to distracted driving, including use of mobile devices while driving, resulting in injury and loss of life. The most recent national statistics are sobering.

- Every year, about 421,000 people are injured in crashes that have involved a driver who was distracted in some way.
- Each year, over 330,000 accidents caused by texting while driving lead to severe injuries. This means that over 78% of all distracted drivers are distracted because they have been texting while driving.
- 1 out of 4 car accidents in the US are caused by texting while driving.
- It takes an average of three seconds after a driver's mind is taken off the road for any road accident to occur. This is the bare minimum amount of time it takes, and it is surprisingly small. Three seconds is the time it takes to turn your ignition when starting your car.
- Reading a text message while driving successfully distracts a driver for a minimum of five seconds each time. This means that the chances of an accident occurring while reading a text is extremely high.<sup>2</sup>

**Distracted driving is also on the rise for first responders** as they are overloaded with distractions while responding to incidents on the highway. The causes of this rise are likely much the same for the rest of the distracted drivers on the road – more mobile technology with more bells and whistles. While first responders now use job-related in-car computers, it is important to note many accidents due to technology-related distracted driving happened when personal cellphones or other devices were being used, and some were linked to hands-free technology.<sup>3</sup>

- Distracted drivers of emergency vehicles were to blame in collisions that killed three Southland residents and injured about 140 others in California over the last two years, according to a state database and local reporting.
- The use of electronic equipment used by first responders, such as in-car computers, was cited as a factor in 48 or just over a quarter of collisions.<sup>3</sup>

Agencies are encouraged to review internal policies and guides relating to the use of cellphones (personal or work), in-car computer systems, and other mobile devices. Individual first responders are also urged to be conscious of their driving habits. Place mobile devices away from reach, set the device on a "stand-by" mode, or otherwise ignore it.

- (1) Distracted Driving. Official US Government Website for Distracted Driving. Web. <https://www.distraction.gov/>
- (2) 25 Shocking Distracted Driving Statistics. Distracteddriveraccidents.com. Web. November 23, 2015. <http://distracteddriveraccidents.com/25-shocking-distracted-driving-statistics/>
- (3) Distracted driving on the rise for police, fire and ambulance drivers. Los Angeles Daily News. Web. 10.04.2014. <http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20141004/distracted-driving-on-the-rise-for-police-fire-and-ambulance-drivers>

Article Submitted by Metric Engineering, Inc. – Brandy Boccuti



### T I M TEAM WEBSITE!

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