



82nd 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 Florida Tow Show**

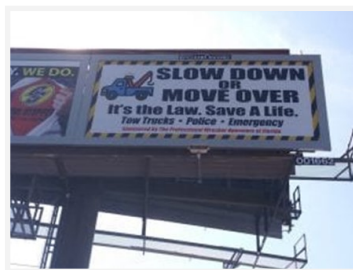
*"The World's Largest International Expo, the Florida Tow Show is one of America's most promising events engaging in tow show"*



The 2019 Tow Show will take place on April 11-14, 2019 at the Hilton Across from Disney Village in Orlando, Florida. The 2019 Tow Show schedule includes new and exciting experiences in the towing industry. The event is a great way to learn more about the industry and connect with other incident responders. A major focus at the show has been safety, particularly when it comes to working with vehicles on highways that need to be towed. Come support the towing Industry! To learn more about the event, please visit the following website: <https://10times.com/florida-tow-show>

**Professional Wrecker Operators of Florida Sponsors Slow Down or Move Over Billboards**

As a safety initiative for towing operators in the Sunshine State, the Professional Wrecker Operators of Florida (PWOF) have sponsored billboards that advise motorists to observe Florida's Move Over law.



The billboards are currently in Orlando, Tampa, Jacksonville and South Florida.

The law requires motorists to move over a lane — when it's safe to do so — for stopped

law enforcement, tow trucks, emergency, sanitation and utility service vehicles. If moving over is not possible, or when on a two-lane road, the motorist must slow to a speed that is 20 mph less than the posted speed limit. If the posted speed limit is 20 mph or less, the law requires drivers to slow to five mph.

Violation of the law results in a fine, court fees and points on the motorist's driving record.

For more information about the Professional Wrecker Operators of Florida visit [www.pwof.org](http://www.pwof.org).

**Distracted Driving Awareness Month**

As vehicle technology improves, today's drivers are potentially more distracted than ever. Whether it is texting, using vehicle internet accessibility, eating on the go, or simply dealing with children in the backseat, there could be a lot more than driving going on while behind the wheel. Indeed, as more and more young people who have grown up with cell phone technology as the norm take to the road, the numbers involving distracted driving have been on the rise. With over 40,000 people having died on our nation's roadways last year, distracted driving remains one of the greatest public health issues facing our country.



To learn more, please visit the following website: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/distracted-driving>

**2019 National Work Zone Awareness Week "Orange Day 2019"**

The 2019 National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 8-12, 2019. 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.

As part of the campaign on Wednesday, April 10th all roadway safety professionals across the country are encouraged to wear orange to proudly show their support of work zone safety. It is an important time to show your support of the roadway safety industry, especially to the families of victims who have lost their lives in work zones.

To learn more, please visit the following website: <http://www.nwzaw.org/participate.html>



**Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) Program**

**“Another Tool in the TIM Tool Box to Help Improve First Responder Safety”**

The topic of discussion at the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) team meetings and among the TIM community has been first responder safety while working major incidents on the highways. The [Florida Open Roads Policy](#) was put in place to help increase the safety of our First Responders by decreasing the amount of time a first responder is on the side of the highway while working an incident. The goal of the Florida Open Roads Policy is to clear an incident in 90 minutes or less. Why is this important? For every one minute that a lane is blocked on a major highway there is a four-mile traffic delay. Additionally, up to 27 responders arrive at a new incident every minute which equals to 1,620 responders working traffic incidents every hour.<sup>1</sup>

Another tool that can be used to help in responder safety is the Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) Program. The Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) Program is a service provided by the Florida Department of Transportation to manage and remove large-scale crashes from our state highway system. It is an innovative and incentive-based program that is working to keep our highways free and clear of road-blocking events and maintain safety.<sup>2</sup>

The RISC activation incident criteria is limited access freeways or ramps, rollover blocking lanes, lost load affecting lanes, truck fire with significant damage, large vehicle with infrastructure damage

What are the benefits RISC? The safety of incident responders, The safety of all road users (Secondary Crashes), and congestion mitigation and commerce.

Why activate RISC instead of Class C:

Class C

- Specific wrecker request (1 or 2 wreckers)
- If additional wreckers or equipment are needed after arrival, recovery stops or is delayed.

RISC Program

- Two minimum rated 50 and 50/35 ton wreckers (one must be a rotator)
- Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) Support Vehicle
- Traffic control and added equipment

Also to name a few, the RISC program requires additional equipment to be provided such as MUTCD approved signs and stands, generator light stands, air compressor, cut saw and cutting torch, gas operated blowers, 2X4s, nails, tarps, plastic stretch wrap, hand trucks (2), docking plate, pallet puller, 200lbs. absorbent, trash can liners, 60 additional 36” cones, 12 dozen flares, spill kits and numerous other items.<sup>3</sup>

RISC vendors are pre-qualified, FHP rotation companies, ensuring high quality service. To learn more, please click on the following link to view a video on the RISC program: <https://youtu.be/3HPFj0TCqI>. Please also visit the TIM team website to view the recent RISC training module from the FHP training website at: <http://www.swftim.org/index.html>

(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) Rapid Incident Scene Clearance Florida Department of Transportation. Web 01.2019. <http://www.swftim.org/index.html>

(3) The RISC E-Learning Module: Florida Highway Patrol. March 2019. [https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/aboutus/one\\_pagers/tim.htm](https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/aboutus/one_pagers/tim.htm)

Article submitted by Brandy Boccuti, Metric Engineering



**T I M TEAM WEBSITE!**  
[www.swftim.org](http://www.swftim.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*

