



88th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

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Upcoming Events:

TIM Team Meeting :

Thursday
April 9, 2020
10:00 am
Polk County Sheriff's Office
East Division Command
3635 Avenue G NW
Winter Haven, FL 33880



**Introducing Our "New TIM Team Champion"
In District One**

Tom Arsenault (Metric Engineering) was recently introduced at the TIM Team meetings. Mr. Arsenault will be assisting as the Traffic Incident Management Project Manager for District One.

Mr. Arsenault brings with him a strong background and a wealth of knowledge in the first responder community. He has worked in Law Enforcement for over 37 Years. He spent 30 years with the Brownstown Police in Michigan; 5 years in Patrol, 10 years as a Traffic Homicide Investigator, and 15 years as a Shift Commander. After 8 Years of teaching Criminal Justice at a Community College in Michigan, he moved to Florida and spent 2 years as a Florida Gulf Coast University Police Officer. He then spent over 2 years as a Florida Law Enforcement Liaison serving District One at FDOT which covered 48 police departments in 12 counties. Mr. Arsenault has extensive training in Traffic Investigation and Traffic Safety.



Mr. Arsenault gives promise as our "New TIM Team Champion" and will help devising innovative ways to strengthen the District One TIM Teams.

Successful TIM Teams involves significant commitments by all "impacted stakeholders", it is essential that each agency be fully committed with our local TIM Teams. Within the TIM Team, the core leadership in essence become the champions within their individual agencies. Well trained, experienced incident responders improve the quick clearance of incidents, thus lessening the impact of traffic congestion and improving safety. The development of Traffic Incident Management programs, including active TIM Teams, is an important step toward improving TIM in a region. TIM is a key strategy for improving the efficiency and reliability of highway operations.

Program Strengths:

Promotes more effective multi-agency, coordinated, and planned incident response

- Improves travel-time reliability for person and freight trips on Nation's highways by improving incident clearance time
- Reduces congestion, collisions, and delays caused by secondary crashes
- Improves responder safety

Help support our TIM team by participating in your local TIM teams and champion others from your agency to attend!

Sarasota/Manatee County Team: (Bi-Monthly)
Manatee County Public Safety Center, 2101 47th Terrace East 2101, Bradenton, FL, 34203.

Collier-Lee-Charlotte County Team: (Bi-Monthly)
SWIFT SunGuide Center, Conference Room A, 10041 Daniels Parkway, Fort Myers, FL, 33913.

Polk County Team: (Quarterly)
Polk County Sheriff's Office, East Division Command, 3635 Avenue G NW, Winter Haven, FL 33880.

If you would like to speak to Tom Arsenault, Traffic Incident Management Project Manager, please contact him at Tom.Arsenault@dot.state.fl.us

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

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." The Florida Department of Transportation and the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) team presented an certificate of appreciation at the recent Collier-Lee-Charlotte TIM team meeting to Pedro Galvez, One Road Ranger, for his heroic lifesaving efforts. Mr. Galvez arrived on scene at I-75 Southbound at Mile Marker 89 where a child in the vehicle was having a seizure. Mr. Galvez, along with the teamwork of other responding agencies, helped provide life saving help for the child.



Struck-By Fatalities of Roadway Responders Spikes Alarming



Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, and other first responders navigate busy highways and roads every day to respond to car accidents, 911 calls, active fires, crime scenes and other emergencies. Although most Americans understand that firefighters and police officers face danger as a daily part of their jobs, many aren't aware of how much danger they face just from other drivers. The danger doesn't stop when they reach their destination, either. An average of 12,200 roadway responses occur every day in the United States, and at each of these stops, emergency responders are constantly faced with the potential of other drivers hitting, clipping or colliding into them as they drive by.¹

The Emergency Responder Safety Institute Released their 2019 Struck-By-Vehicle Fatality Report and 2020 Incident Data to Date. In the **first two weeks of 2020, seven roadway responders were struck and killed by vehicles while assisting the public**. Seven responders lost in fourteen days.²

These losses end people's lives, destroy families, destabilize departments, and threaten the safety of the motoring public. We must better understand these struck-by incidents so we can implement mitigation strategies, responder training, and public education that addresses the root causes.

Emergency Response Safety Institute (ERSI) has compiled a report, available on ResponderSafety.com, detailing the forty-four roadway responder struck-by deaths that occurred in 2019. The report is accompanied by a spreadsheet detailing the characteristics and circumstances of each incident. The report and data spreadsheet are critical reading for all responders and leadership.



- The 2019 ERSI Struck-By-Vehicle Fatality Report and the accompanying incident data are available at: <https://www.respondersafety.com/Struck-By-Incidents/2019-ERSI-StruckByVehicle-Fatality-Report.aspx>
- ERSI updates its spreadsheet of 2020 struck-by-vehicle incidents as they occur. That 2020 spreadsheet is available at www.respondersafety.com/FatalityReports²

As 2020's alarming statistics illustrate, we cannot wait another day!

Below are few examples of guidelines to follow to help provide safety to first responders while working along the highways:

- Traffic control personnel including law enforcement and fire police officers should be the eyes and ears for other responders, enabling them to reach the scene safely and quickly, alerting them to external hazards, and helping prevent secondary incidents.
- Understanding when to decommit of personnel and apparatus and how to expeditiously reopen roadways, are vital parts of traffic management. All emergency responders must be aware of the dangers present in reopening roadways, however, such as frustrated drivers racing off at high rates of speed once the roadway clears, and other drivers craning their necks to view the emergency scene but failing to pay attention to their own driving.
- The use of warning lights or audible devices on vehicles while responding to, or operating at, emergency scenes.
- High visibility reflective apparel should be standard safety equipment for all responders operating in or near moving traffic.
- Standard operating procedures (SOPs) should guide vehicle positioning upon arrival as an integral part of traffic control.

(1) First Responder Safety: Are We on the Right Path. Passion Project. Cory Hohs. Web: 05.16.2019. <https://insurance.glatfelters.com/first-responder-safety-roadside-safety>

(2) Struck-By Fatalities of Roadway Responders Spikes Alarming in Early 2020. FirstResponderSafety.com Learning Network. Web 02.2020. learning.respondersafety.com

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

