



72nd Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

May 2017



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Upcoming Events:

Next TIM Team Meeting:

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

• July 13, 2017



Remembering and Honoring Responders This Month

The month of May includes several events for remembering and honoring responders.



National Police Week

May 15th through 21st

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated

May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week. Currently, tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world converge on Washington, DC to participate in a number of planned events which honor those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The Memorial Service began in 1982 as a gathering in Senate Park of approximately 120 survivors and supporters of law enforcement. Decades later, the event, more commonly known as National Police Week, has grown to a series of events which attracts thousands of survivors and law enforcement officers to our Nation's Capital each year.

National Police Week draws in between 25,000 to 40,000 attendees. The attendees come from departments throughout the United States as well as from agencies throughout the world.

<http://www.policeweek.org/>



National EMS Week

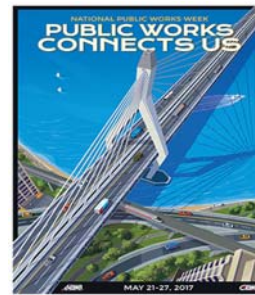
May 21st through 27th

This year's theme is "EMS STRONG: Always in Service." In 1974, President Gerald Ford

authorized EMS Week to celebrate EMS practitioners and the important work they do in our nation's communities. Back then, EMS was a new profession, and EMS practitioners had only just started to be recognized as a critical component of emergency medicine

and the public health safety net. A lot has changed since then. EMS is now firmly established as an essential public function and a vital component of the medical care continuum. On any given day, EMS practitioners help save lives by responding to medical emergencies, including heart attack, difficulty breathing, a fall or accident, drowning, cardiac arrest, stroke, drug overdose or acute illness.

<http://www.emsstrong.org/>



National Public Works Week

May 21st through 27th

Every year National Public Works Week gets bigger and better. The number of participating

municipalities continues to grow, which means the number of citizens who are exposed to the value of public works grows. Since 1960, American Public Works Association (APWA) has sponsored National Public Works Week. Across North America, our more than 29,000 members in the U.S. and Canada use this week to energize and educate the public on the importance of public works to their daily lives: planning, building, managing and operating at the heart of their local communities to improve everyday quality of life National Public Works Week.

The 2017 National Public Works Week Theme is "Public Works Connects Us". This year National Public Works Week celebrates the vital role public works plays in connecting us all together. As the cornerstone of civilization, public works provides, maintains, and improves the structures and services that assure a higher quality of life for our communities. Its streets, roads, bridges, and public transportation keep us linked together from coast to coast, and its clean water and sanitation services keep us healthy and allow our communities to grow and prosper.

http://www.apwa.net/MyApwa/Apwa_Public/Education_and_Events/NPWW/National_Public_Works_Week.aspx

Understanding the Process of a Traffic Incident

“Traffic Incident Response Is More Complex Than Most People Realize”



TIM consists of a planned and coordinated multi-disciplinary process to detect, respond to, and clear traffic incidents so that traffic flow may be restored as safely and quickly as possible. Effective TIM reduces the duration and impacts of traffic incidents and improves the safety of motorists, crash victims and emergency responders.¹

The typical sequence of events in a serious incidents is as follows: Detection that an incident has occurred → Notification and Verification that the incident has occurred → Determine incident location → Sufficient information to enable appropriate response → Responder Dispatch → Roadway Clearance → Recovery of normal traffic flow → Prompt incident detection, notification, verification, and responder dispatch re-duce incident duration → Improved communication and coordination among traffic incident responders also reduces incident duration.²

The following is a prime example of the complexity and the process of a major incident which occurred on Interstate 95 in Maryland at 2:46 p.m. which involved a tanker truck loaded with about 30,000 liters (8,000 gallons) of gasoline that went out of control on a curved elevated ramp carrying Interstate 895 over Interstate 95 in Maryland. The tractor-trailer climbed the concrete barrier and plunged down onto the north-bound lanes of I-95. The tanker hit another truck on I-95 below and burst into flames. Two other vehicles also were involved in the crash. During the nearly 13-hour course of the incident and the following investigation and cleanup, more than 200 responders from over a dozen agencies and private sector companies were involved onsite, and many more were involved offsite in managing the traffic flow and providing traveler information. About 4 hours after the incident occurred, two of the four south-bound lanes were reopened to traffic. By 3:35 the next morning, all lanes were opened in both directions for the morning peak period. Although the I-95 crash is not typical of the many thousands that occur daily on the Nation's highway system, it illustrates that incidents can involve multiple responders from a variety of organizations with different responsibilities and priorities. The number of individual responders and organizations represented increases dramatically with the severity and complexity of an incident.³

For most incident responders, the top priority is to rescue and remove any injured people, protect responders and the scene, minimize environmental damage, and investigate the incident quickly and thoroughly. At the same time, it is critical to provide traffic control by moving motorists through the scene and providing approaching motorists with information to make informed decisions about travel in the affected area or areas.

Many different responder disciplines are involved in traffic incident response. The more serious the incident, the more disciplines are involved. Each discipline has a vital mission to perform, and their work takes time. For a serious or major crash, response disciplines and their primary TIM missions, refer to the table to the right.²

TIM Responder Discipline	Primary TIM Missions
Emergency Dispatch (911 Center)	Dispatch Emergency Responders upon Notification of Incident
Fire/Rescue	Public Safety at Incident Scene Fire Suppression Rescue Crash Victims
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	Triage, Treatment, and Transport of Crash Victims
HAZMAT	Hazardous Material Cleanup and Disposal
Law Enforcement	Secure the Incident Scene Traffic Control / Road and Lane Closures / Openings Safeguard Property Conduct Crash Investigations
Medical Examiner/Coroner	Investigate Fatal Incidents
Towing & Recovery	Removal of Wrecked or Disabled Vehicles, and Debris
Transportation	Detect and Verify Incidents Activate Diversion Routes Coordinate Vehicle and Spilled Cargo Removal Stabilize and Repair Transportation System Inform Public of Traffic Impacts of Incidents

When an accident occurs congestion quickly builds up and chances of a secondary incident increases. The sooner incidents are detected, the sooner safety personnel can respond to the incident and clear it from the roads thereby allowing traffic lanes to re-open and traffic to return to normal conditions. TIM assists with creating a safe work zone with proper signage and equipment for emergency crews responding to an incident.

Incident response involves response from multiple responders from a variety of organizations each with a specific role and responsibility at an incident scene. **For traffic incident management to be effective, it is important that all of these agencies work collaboratively.**

- (1) US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. Web 05.12.2017. https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/eto_tim_pse/about/tim.htm
- (2) Anatomy of a Traffic Incident. American Association of State Highway and Transportation (AASHTO). Web. April 02, 2012. ntimc.transportation.org/Documents/AnatomyofaTrafficIncident.pdf
- (3) Traffic Incident Management. David L. Helman. US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. Issue No: Vol. 68 No. 3. November/December 2014 <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/publicroads/04nov/03.ctm>

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T I M TEAM WEBSITE!

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.