



83rd Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

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**Click It or Ticket Campaign**

*"Buckle Up Florida, It's the Law"*

This year's national Click It or Ticket seat belt campaign will take place May 20 through June 2. The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is asking all states to participate in B2B, a one-day national seat belt awareness event on May 20, which is coordinated by participating state highway safety offices and other law enforcement agencies within their jurisdiction. The B2B program aims to increase law enforcement participation by coordinating highly visible seat belt enforcement and providing seat belt fact sheets for drivers at heavily traveled, highly visible state border checkpoints.



According to NHTSA, there were 10,076 unbuckled passenger vehicle occupants killed in U.S. crashes in 2017. In that same year, 55% of passenger vehicle occupants killed at night (6 pm to 5:59 am) were not wearing their seat belts. That's why one focus of the Click It or Ticket campaign and the B2B kick-off event is night-time enforcement.

To learn more about the event, please visit the following website: <https://www.flhsmv.gov/safety-center/vehicle-safety/buckle-up-florida-its-the-law/>



**National EMS Week**

*"Honoring the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's front line."*



National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week recognizes the front line of the healthcare industry. National EMS Week is a time to show our appreciation for their dedication. National EMS Week

2019 will be May 19 through May 25, 2019. Make sure and get your marketing items and gifts to promote your ambulance service and help educate the public about what you do. Don't forget to get gifts for your paramed-

ics, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's), first responders, and dispatchers to show your appreciation for their hard work. Those in the EMS field, such as EMT's, paramedics, first responders, and emergency dispatchers work every day with very little appreciation or thanks from the public. These dedicated individuals even make a difference during many of their routine, non-emergency calls that make up the bulk of their day to day work. Life-saving maneuvers are not always used each day by an individual paramedic, EMT, or first responder, however, the compassion and caring that they show to their patients and the help that they provide each day can be tiresome to these professionals. We should reward them with this week by saying "thank you" with gifts. Local businesses can give out premium promotional items such as bags, coolers, and other useful items to show their thanks for the dedicated service these EMS workers provide for the community. Future EMS Week dates will be May 17-23, 2020.

To learn more about the event, please visit the following website: <https://www.acep.org/emsweek>

**National Police Week**

*"Heroes Live Forever"*

National police week will take place May 12-18, 2019. In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.



<https://nleomf.org/programs-events/national-police-week>



**Upcoming Events:**

**TIM Team Meeting :**

Thursday  
**July 11, 2019**  
**10:00 am**  
 Polk County Sheriff's Office  
 1891 Jim Keene Boulevard  
 Winter Haven, FL 33880



### The Basics to Highway Incident Safety Training

In the first few months of 2019, 16 emergency responders have been killed by other vehicles. Sadly, according to the National Safety Council survey, the perception of 49% of survey participants is the responders being struck on the scene of incidents, it's "just part of the risk" of being a first responder. Death on the highway should never be an expectation.<sup>1</sup>

Too many times first responders may become complacent while working on the roadways or inexperienced new recruits may not have the real world experience that is gained by "hands on experience" while working traffic incidents. Even the most experienced first responder can benefit from revisiting the basics on highway incident safety training.

There was an article written by Jack Sullivan in the FireRescue editorial called "Go back to the basics for highway incident operations training." Every responder should be trained on four roadway safety basics to prepare for the hazards they face on every trip. Below were the tips that was provided by the veteran first responder:

1. **Hazard Awareness Training:** Hazard awareness is important for first responders, but especially for new recruits who are just beginning in the industry. New recruits likely have little to no experience working around traffic at emergency scenes. We have to make sure they know about the hazards of working on or near the roadway and what they should be doing to reduce the chances of being hit by a vehicle. That training should occur before they make their first response to an emergency scene.
2. **The Three Cs:** Communication, Collaboration and Cooperation: It's extremely important for agencies that respond to roadway incidents, to train, preplan and review their response strategies and tactics. Review your department's SOP/SOG with the other agencies before you end up together at an incident on the highway at zero-dark-thirty during a storm. Roadway incidents tend to get handled more efficiently when responding personnel have all trained and worked together. Schedule a tabletop drill with the other disciplines occasionally, but at least once a year. Use that opportunity to review actual incidents that You know what needs to happen in an after action review. We tend to only conduct an AAR for incidents when things don't go well for some reason. It's just as important to review incidents when things go well. It provides an opportunity for positive reinforcement and lets the team know when they did a good job.
3. **Setting Up A Safe Work Area:** When dispatched to a roadway incident, the first arriving emergency units play a critical role in setting up the scene for the safest possible work area for the duration of the call. In some cases, the actual incident might have blocked the road or travel lanes. First arriving units need to convey that information to the appropriate personnel so that arrangements can be made to divert traffic heading toward the incident area, or at least set up advance warning to advise motorists that they are approaching a traffic queue or backlog. If the travel lanes aren't blocked by the incident, then it is up to first arriving units to determine which lanes need to be blocked or to decide if all travel lanes need to be stopped. Either choice introduces even more hazards. If you decide to shut down the roadway, then you must take steps to protect motorists who will be at the back of the travel queue. If you decide only certain lanes need to be blocked, then you have to position emergency vehicles in such a way to warn oncoming traffic and guide drivers into open lanes they can use to pass the incident scene safely.
4. **Personal Protective Equipment:** The type of PPE required will vary with the type of incident and the type of work that your crew needs to initiate. High-visibility PPE is appropriate for many roadway incidents.<sup>2</sup>



These four subjects should be considered essential basics covered in roadway incident training and standard operating procedures.<sup>2</sup>

Additionally, [Respondersafety.com](http://Respondersafety.com) is a free training site for first responders. They released a new training module called "TIM for the Next Generation" is specifically for first responders who are newer to the profession and covers the basics of highway incident safety training. It covers the bedrock safety principles and traffic incident management practices that every responder should learn and practice from the beginning of their career until retirement.

<sup>(1)</sup> Drivers More Distracted Around Emergency Vehicles. National Safety Council. Web 05.2019. <https://www.nsc.org/in-the-newsroom/drivers-more-distracted-around-emergency-vehicles>

<sup>(2)</sup> Go back to the basics for highway incident operations training. Fire Rescue1. Web 12.2018. <https://www.firerescue1.com/fire-chief-digital/articles/392698018-Go-back-to-the-basics-for-highway-incident-operations-training/>

Article submitted by Brandy Boccuti, Metric Engineering

### 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

