



89th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

May 2020



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Upcoming Events:

TIM Team Meeting :

Thursday
October 15, 2020
 10:00 am
 Polk County Sheriff's Office
 East Division Command
 3635 Avenue G NW
 Winter Haven, FL 33880



Thank You to all of Our First Responders

First Responders have shined during the COVID-19 crisis through the preparedness, professionalism, courage and commitment of our police officers, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, Road Rangers, dispatchers, nurses and doctors to the health and welfare of the communities they serve. They will put on their gear while taking preventive measures and then go out and serve as well and safely as they can. We want to thank all of our First Responders for their dedication and professionalism during this time.

Recognition for District One Road Rangers

Going Above the Call of Duty



On Tuesday April 7, 2020 at 4:23 PM there was a Disabled Vehicle on SB I-75 near SR-70 Exit. This is in the Construction Zone and there were no shoulders available. The vehicle and driver were in a very bad situation given the location and time of day. Within minutes, Road Ranger James Marlin arrived and verified that the vehicle had a flat tire. Road Ranger Scott Pierce arrived behind Road Ranger Marlin to assist with the MOT. Road Ranger Marlin was able to push the vehicle into the Gore Area just up and out of the Construction Zone. The Road Rangers then changed the tire and the driver was on their way.

We would also like to highlight the recent recognition from Secretary Kevin J. Thibault, PE to all of our Road Rangers. To the left is the memo from Secretary Thibault to our Florida Road Rangers.



Showing Appreciation of Our HealthCare Providers

On Tuesday, April 14th the Lehigh Fire Department, Rescue, Sheriff's Office, and Tom Arsenault, Traffic Incident Management Project Manager showed their appreciation to the healthcare providers at the Lehigh Regional Hospital by coordinating a car parade. See below pictures from the healthcare appreciation parade, which was well-received by the Hospital workers.



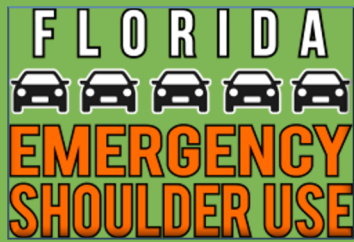
Preparing for Upcoming Hurricane Season



FEMA Administrator Pete Gaynor emphasized the importance of hurricane preparedness as the nation continues its unprecedented COVID-19 response. With National Hurricane Preparedness Week falling May 3-9, Gaynor said this season “will be a little more complicated, with social distancing and ensuring we keep hygiene at the top of our list.” Gaynor elaborated on how the agency is adjusting its hurricane preparedness measures in the midst of fighting the COVID-19 virus which has involved updated FEMA [guidelines](#) for preparing for hurricane season.¹

Our District One command centers are also preparing for the upcoming hurricane season and taking into consideration COVID-19. Chief Steve Litschauer with the Manatee County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), FDOT District One Satellite Traffic Management Center, stated they are currently discussing the following procedures to help protect their command center:

- Have the Emergency Support Function Leaders in the EOC (Usually 8 people at each table, now just 1 person per table)
- Emergency Support Function Leaders to communicate remotely with their support staff and partners using WebEx, Zoom, E-Mails
- Virtual briefings via Zoom
- Section/Branch Chiefs/Directors are to hold "remote" meetings with assigned Leads prior to June 1st.



Additionally, the Emergency Shoulder Use (ESU) emergency evacuation plan, Florida’s innovative strategy to increase traffic capacity during major hurricane evacuations using existing paved shoulders, has been adapted and will be implemented during this year’s hurricane season.

During Hurricane Irma in 2017, with an estimated 6.8 million people ordered to evacuate, both the I-75 and I-4 ESU operations helped evacuees get to safety well before the tropical force winds arrived while still allowing emergency responders to travel in the opposite direction. Although minor collisions involving rear-end and side-swipe crashes occurred, there were no severe injury crashes or fatalities. The ESU operation was implemented without a major disruption to traffic flow, and interchanges remained open for drivers to

access food and fuel. The reduced number of law enforcement personnel required to support ESU allowed for more law enforcement staff to focus on other storm preparation needs.²

To learn more and to view the Florida Department of Transportation ESU video, please visit the following website at: <http://fdot.gov/emergencymanagement/esu/>

Be a part of your Local TIM Team and **get to know other responders** that will be working with you **during emergency evacuations!**

- (1) First FEMA Encourages Hurricane Preparedness Now in COVID-19 Environment. FEMA. Web 05.05.2020. <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/05/05/case-you-missed-it-fema-encourages-hurricane-preparedness-now-covid-19>
- (2) Emergency Shoulder Use During Hurricane Irma Case Study by FDOT District 1 and 5. National Operations Center of Excellence. Web 05.14.2020 https://transops.s3.amazonaws.com/uploaded_files/Florida%20DOT%20Case%20Study%20-%20Hurricane%20Hard%20Shoulder%20Running.pdf

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

