



95th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

May 2021



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Upcoming Events
TIM Team Meeting:

Thursday
July 8, 2021
10:00 am



VIRTUAL Training Event for First Responders!

As part of the Florida Department of Transportation and the TIM team's commitment to improve the safety of our responders through training and education opportunities, we are offering National Traffic Incident Management (SHRP2) Training virtually to our FDOT District One TIM Team. This is a completely free training open to all responders – fire, police, State Patrol, EMS, coroners, towing/recovery, dispatchers, DOT, public works, and any other traffic incident responders.

The training was developed BY RESPONDERS - FOR RESPONDERS, with the national objective that responders acquire a common set of core competencies that promote a shared understanding of the requirements for achieving the safety of responders and motorists, quick response, and effective communications at traffic incident scenes. The training is endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the National Volunteer Fire Council. Participants will receive a National TIM Responder Training certificate from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) after completing the training.

The virtual training will be offered at the following times:

- Option 1: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 | 8:00 am - 12:00 pm (EST)
- Option 2: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 | 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm (EST)

To register for the virtual training event, please click on the link: [Registration Form](#)

New Podcast from Respondersafety.org

The Emergency Responder Safety Institute presents the ResponderSafety.com podcast, which includes a closer look at hot topics, new information, innovative approaches, and case studies in responder safety at roadway incidents and in traffic incident management. Listen for practical, actionable information you can implement today at your next roadway incident response to improve safety of emergency response personnel and the public, no matter which agency you work for. Come learn from interviews and special features with experts and leaders in emergency services. All agencies that respond to roadway incidents are welcome and will find value in what we discuss, including fire, EMS, fire police, law enforcement, DOT, safety service patrols, special traffic units, medevac, and towing and recovery.

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[Podcast](#)



Next-Generation Traffic Incident Management

“Integrating Technology, Data, and Training”

While the Florida Highway Administration’s National TIM Responder Training Program successfully trained almost 500,000 responders to clear incidents collaboratively, safely, and quickly, it was largely focused on agencies that respond on interstates and high-speed roadways. Next-generation (NextGen) TIM increases the focus on local agency TIM programs while integrating new and emerging technology, tools, and training to improve incident detection and reduce safety response and clearance times on all roadways.¹

NextGen TIM expands the geographic coverage and information timeliness for incident detection, particularly on local roads. Traditionally, transportation agencies have identified incidents (e.g., crash, roadway debris, or stalled vehicle) through field sensor technologies, safety service patrols, or public safety agencies. Through crowdsourced, vehicle probe, connected vehicle, and computer-aided dispatch (CAD) data, agencies can detect and respond to more incidents, more quickly.²

NextGen TIM reduces scene clearance time. Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) technology improves situational awareness, helping agencies better manage incident scenes and shorten crash investigations. UAS technology also reduces traffic risk exposure for crash investigators and other responders.

Additionally, new data and analysis techniques will help agencies target training, intelligent transportation systems (ITS) infrastructure, safety service patrol routes, and other aspects of TIM to reduce the overall incident clearance time.

NextGen TIM improves responder and traveler decision making. Trained responders make better decisions that foster safe, quick incident clearance strategies. New virtual platforms for the National TIM Responder Training Program make this critical training accessible to every responder community when and where they are ready to learn. Moreover, agencies can use new TIM strategies such as back-of-queue warning or navigation-app notification of active responders to help travelers slow down, move over, or choose a different route.¹

Examples of NextGen TIM tools and strategies in use by local agencies:

- TIM tools and training helped the Tippecanoe County (Indiana) Sheriff’s Office experience a 60% reduction in the time needed to measure a serious traffic crash scene. “In one instance, they used UAS mapping technology to process an entire 800-foot scene in 22 minutes.
- During the first six months of 2018, the Oro Valley Police Department (Arizona) found that when officers focused on TIM practices and time was tracked in a CAD system, roadway and incident clearance times were reduced by 32%.
- After receiving TIM training, the Houston Fire Department (Texas) saw a 40% reduction in scene time, resulting in a 25% reduction in fire apparatuses struck while at incident scenes.¹

If you would like to learn more, please click on the following link to view the video Innovation Spotlight: Next-Generation TIM released by FHWA: <https://youtu.be/XCYtuXjyrbU>

- (1) NextGen Traffic Incident Management (TIM): Integrating Training, Technology, and Data into Arterial TIM Programs. National Operations Center of Excellence. January 2021. <https://transportationops.org/NextGenTIM>
- (2) Innovation Spotlight: Next-Generation TIM. Federal Highway Administration. Web February 2021. <https://youtu.be/XCYtuXjyrbU>

Article submitted by Brandy Boccuti, Metric Engineering, Inc.



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

