



101th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

May 2022



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Upcoming Events:

Next TIM Team Meeting
Thursday, **July 14, 2022**
10:00 am

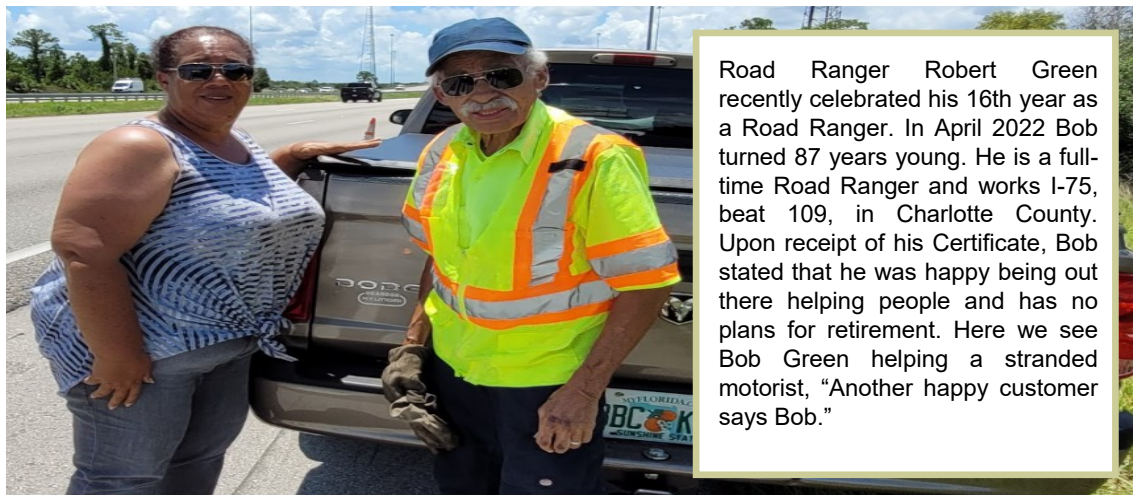
East Region Command
3635 Avenue G Northwest
Winter Haven, FL 33880



Recognition for Our FDOT District One Road Rangers

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 would like to recognize the following FDOT District One Road Rangers for their service.

Road Ranger Robert (Bob) Green



Road Ranger Robert Green recently celebrated his 16th year as a Road Ranger. In April 2022 Bob turned 87 years young. He is a full-time Road Ranger and works I-75, beat 109, in Charlotte County. Upon receipt of his Certificate, Bob stated that he was happy being out there helping people and has no plans for retirement. Here we see Bob Green helping a stranded motorist, "Another happy customer says Bob."

Road Ranger Jon Cruz

At approximately 2:398 AM, on April 12, 2022, Road Ranger Jon Cruz was working on Alligator Alley on I-75. Road Ranger Cruz was the first emergency personnel on scene of a rollover crash involving a van pulling a cargo trailer. He immediately advised the Traffic Management Center of the entrapment and requested both Fire and Rescue and the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) as soon as possible. While the Fire and Rescue and FHP were en route Jon shut down the highway for safety. Jon proceeded to help the motorist get out of their vehicle within minutes. He acted swiftly and remained calm. Jon was the right person, at the right place, at the right time! (The vehicle was rolled over in the travel lanes). Amazingly, there were no injuries to any of the passengers and they were treated at the scene with non-life-threatening injuries.



If you have a first responder in your agency that you would like to be considered for recognition for their "Above the Call of Duty" service while working along the roadway, please send the information to Tom Arsenault, TIM Program Manager, at tom.arsenault@dot.state.fl.us.

It's a Crash Not an Accident



Merriam-Webster defines a Car Crash as, the instance of a car colliding with another vehicle or with an object. The same source defines an Accident as, an unforeseen and unplanned event or circumstance. The traffic safety world for a long time has used the word Accident when describing when vehicles Crash into each other.

When I took my first Crash Reconstruction Course in 1987, one thing I remember was the instructor, (An Engineer from Michigan State University), telling the class the difference between a crash and an accident. As members of the traffic safety community, we need to drop the 'A' word. Although automobile crashes and other injuries are the leading cause of death among Americans ages 1 to 44.

Advocacy groups and supporters of this movement have concluded it is wrong to refer to a crash or collision as an accident, saying they believe millions of people are being misled to believe that fatalities from car collisions can't be prevented or avoided since they are an inevitable accident.

The top causes of road crashes are distracted driving, poor street conditions, impaired driving, excessive speeding, and negligence on the part of the drivers. All of these causes are preventable.

Reducing motor vehicle crash deaths was one of the great public health achievements of the 20th century for the US. However, more than 32,000 people are killed and 2 million are injured each year from motor vehicle crashes nationally.¹

Today, a growing number of companies, organizations, and people are joining the "Crash Not Accident" movement by taking a stand to say that words do matter and that there is an important difference between the two terms—crash vs. accident.

As a committed Traffic Incident Management Member we find this change of perspective leads to a more precise confirmation when two cars collide. In our experience, negligence plays a prominent role in most Florida car crashes. Whether it was the negligence of another driver or any of the other reasons listed above.

Remember, it was a crash, not an accident. I hope you and your family are never in one.



¹Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Web 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/pdf/2016-07-vitalsigns.pdf>

Article submitted by Tom Arsenault, 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

