



75th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

November 2017



2017 National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Awareness Week



The National TIM Incident Awareness Week is taking place November 13th-19th. The 2017 Goal of the campaign will be increasing driver knowledge of the State Quick Clearance Laws and how to keep motorist and responders safe on the roads.

America's first official observance of Traffic Incident Response Week in 2016 saw greater attention to the issues motorists and responders face at incident scenes. Preparation for this year's events can be seen on the [TIM Network's Resource Page](#) and the [Traffic Incident Response Week Resource Page](#).

Additionally, the National Operations Center of Excellence hosted several Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) webinars leading up to Traffic Incident Response week. The focus of the webinars was to increase awareness about the importance of TIM to various responder communities and discuss what these communities can do to raise awareness about the importance of TIM.

To view the webinar series, please visit the following webpage: <https://transportationops.org/traffic-incident-response-week-2017>

What can you do? Get involved: Engage your community leaders, community emergency response teams, public safety professionals, and motorist

- Discuss Safe Quick Clearance Laws Attend national activities during week Plan Stat Activities
- Encourage Members on TIM Teams to use the forum to Plan and exchange ideas
- Serve as a panelist during webinars, and share lessons learned and tools to others

To learn more, please visit the TIM Network website at: <http://timnetwork.org>

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

The holiday season between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day is one of the deadliest and most dangerous times on America's roadways due to an increase in impaired driving. Since 1981, every President of the United States has demonstrated the commitment to preventing impaired driving by proclaiming December as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month or more recently, National Impaired Driving Prevention Month.



In December there will be a significantly increased enforcement effort combined with aggressive marketing on the annual Drunk Driving crackdown, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. Local law enforcement officers will be out in force in December to January 1, 2018, apprehending all drunk drivers and spreading the message.

For many Americans, "holiday cheer" involves drinking alcohol at holiday parties and events. That means, unfortunately, there's a spike in drunk-driving crashes each holiday season.

- In the single month of December 2015, a staggering 733 people lost their lives in crashes involving a drunk driver.
- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 32,719 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2015, and 10,076 of those fatalities occurred in drunk-driving-related crashes. Sixty-eight percent of the drunk-driving fatalities involved at least one drunk driver in the crash with a BAC almost double the legal limit.

To learn more, please visit the following website: <https://one.nhtsa.gov/drivesober/>



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Upcoming Events:

Next TIM Team Meeting:
County Sheriff's Office Comp Procop Room
1891 Jim Keene Boulevard
Winter Haven, FL 33880
10:00 AM
• January 11, 2018



A Reminder of Why Traffic Incident Management (TIM) is Important



The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), recently hosted a series of webinars discussing "What is TIM and what can TIM do for me?" The speakers included TIM industry professionals Paul Jodoin, FHWA, Jeff King, FHWA/retired Arizona State Trooper Captain, and Darin Weaver, Oregon Department of Transportation. The webinar provided both as a reminder to TIM professionals why TIM is important and its success to the TIM community.

At its core, **TIM is one of the most visible and important elements of traffic management.** Because TIM has a direct and measurable impact on every element of everyday life, TIM programs that operate at maximum efficiency offer the public countless direct and indirect benefits.¹

The following list captures just some of the known benefits of TIM:

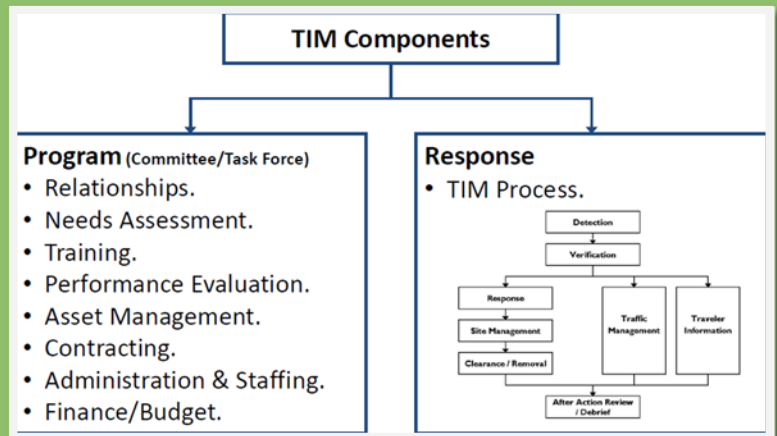
- Improved incident detection and response
- Reduced incident clearance times
- Reduced congestion
- Reduced emissions and, thus, improved air quality

According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), TIM is 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.²

Why TIM? The safety of incident responders, The safety of all road users, and congestion mitigation and commerce.³

TIM Program - Where do you Start?

1. Identify, involve, encourage participation from all responding agencies and stakeholders - "get folks to the table."
2. Identify a "champion" to lead program development and on-going program administration.
3. Establish and maintain relationships.
4. Collectively assess the "climate" - Where are we now?
 - Tool: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Capability Maturity TIM Self-Assessment (CMSA).
5. Collectively establish goals for performance and progress - Where do we want/need to go?
 - Tool: Charter/Vision/Mission²



Continue to support our local TIM team and remind your agency why TIM is important. Please also join us at the next TIM team meeting in January 2018 where we will be using the results from our 2017 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Capability Maturity TIM Self-Assessment as a tool to establish our 2018 TIM team goals!

To view upcoming FHWA webinars, please visit the following website: <https://collaboration.fhwa.dot.gov/dot/fhwa/default.aspx>

- (1) Traffic Incident Management. International Association of Chiefs of Police. Web. October 2017. <http://www.theiacp.org/Traffic-Incident-Management-TIM>
- (2) Introduction to Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Programs Webinar. September 2017. Web. https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovativeprograms/centers/local_aid/tim_intro_webinar_phase_072617.aspx
- (3) About TIM. Traffic Incident Management in partnership with FHWA. Web November 2017. <http://www.safequickclearance.org/About-TIM>

Article Submitted by Metric Engineering, Inc. – Brandy Boccuti

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.