



86th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

November 2019



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Upcoming Events:

TIM Team Meeting :

Thursday
January 9, 2020
10:00 am
 Polk County Sheriff's Office
 East Division Command
 3635 Avenue G NW
 Winter Haven, FL 33880



National First Responder (SHRP2) Training
FREE 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**, by providing training and education, we are offering **FREE** National Traffic Incident Management (SHRP2) Training. 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 objective that responders nationwide acquire a common set of core competencies. These competencies promote a shared understanding of the requirements for achieving the safety of responders and motorists, quick response, and effective communications at traffic incident scenes.



Participants will focus on unified national best practices for traffic incident management. The training provides a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach with safety as the primary focus along with quick clearance to reduce roadway exposure. Training will include both classroom discussion and hands-on tabletop exercises.

The National Traffic Incident Management (SHRP2) 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.

OPTION 1:

Date: December 12, 2019
Time: 1:00PM – 5:00PM (4-hour course)
Location: FDOT District One, Swift SunGuide Center, 10041 Daniels Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33913

OPTION 2:

Date: December 13, 2019
Time: 8:30AM - 12:30PM (4-hour course)
Location: FDOT District One Satellite TMC, Manatee County Public Safety Center, Bradenton, FL 34203

To register for the FREE training course, please click on the following link:

<http://www.123formbuilder.com/form-5098186/shrp2-december-2019>

Traffic Incident Management Stakeholder Survey

We Value Your Feedback!



On behalf of the Florida Department of Transportation and the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) team, we would like to confirm that we have the most accurate and up to date information of the best representative at each of our TIM stakeholder agencies. The contact information will be used to send any important TIM news, updates, and TIM related events.

Additionally, we will be creating a "Frequently Asked Questions and Answers" page for both current and new TIM Team members. We have included a question on the survey for any recommended information that we should include.

If you have not already, please click on the following link to take the short survey:

<https://conta.cc/2NEuUQD>

Public Opinion Poll Towards First Responders



A topic during the recent TIM team meeting was a recent First Responder [Public Opinion Poll](#) that was conducted by the National Safety Council. The poll was to help understand the attitudes and behavior of the driving public as it relates to first responders that work on the highways. New research shows that many drivers are profoundly distracted by their phones when they're going past first responders working accidents on the roadways. New research from the National Safety Council found 71% of drivers admitted to taking photos and texting while driving by emergency workers; that's nearly triple the 24% who admitted to doing it under normal driving conditions. 60% admitted to posting to social media; two-thirds have emailed about what they're driving by. Worse still, 16% – more than 1 in 10 – said they either have struck or nearly struck a first responder or emergency vehicle stopped on or near the road. In spite of all this, 89% of drivers say they believe distracted motorists are a major source of risk to first responders.¹

And the results are increasingly deadly. Forty first responders were killed on the side of the road last year, up 60% from 2017. And so far this year, 21 have died, including 10 police officers. 14 officers were hit and killed in all of 2018.¹

Other important findings from the poll include:

- 19% of drivers admit their own inattentive driving has probably put first responders at unnecessary risk
- Despite being willing to engage in risky behaviors while driving around emergency vehicles, 62% say they are “above average” drivers when passing an emergency vehicle with its lights flashing on the side of the road
- Even though 97% say they will see an emergency vehicle if it has its flashing lights on, 74% would still like responders to wear reflective clothing
- 80% of drivers say they slow down to get a better look when they see an emergency response vehicle tending to a fire, crash or traffic stop. Doing so backs up traffic and creates other safety hazards.

The most discouraging results from the poll is that the perception of 49% of participants is that responders that are being struck at the scene of incidents is that “It’s just part of the risk of being a first responder.”²

Last December, one of our own first responders in Florida, Highway Patrol Trooper Mithil Patel was on the shoulder of interstate 95 working an accident when, despite a traffic lane being closed as a safety buffer, a suspected distracted driver was the cause of a car losing control and swerving towards him. Patel said, "I have seen it where they pull out the phone outside the window and take start taking pictures, not paying attention to the road." All 50 states have a "move over" law that requires drivers to give first responders room to work, but police say it's about 50-50 if people actually do it.³

It is important for first responders to take a proactive role while working on the highways. Take advantage of trainings such as the National First Responder (SHRP2) Training and attend your local Traffic Incident Management (TIM) meetings.

- (1) Drivers More Distracted Around Emergency Vehicles. National Safety Council. Web 04.03.2019. <https://www.nsc.org/in-the-newsroom/drivers-more-distracted-around-emergency-vehicles>
- (2) First Responder Safety Public Opinion Poll. National Safety Council. Web 03.2019 <https://www.scribd.com/document/404963847/First-Responder-Public-Opinion-Poll-Summary-March-2019>
- (3) Distracted drivers pose increasing threat to first responders. CBS. Web 05.27.2019 https://www.cbs.com/shows/cbs_evening_news/video/N871XEbwAzHMIHEHdN5lr28I9JzqIWH5/distracted-drivers-pose-increasing-threat-to-first-responders/

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

