



68th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

September 2016



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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

- **October 13, 2016**



2015-2016 Statewide Road Ranger Survey



The results of the 2015-2016 Statewide Road Ranger Survey for Incident Responders have been released.

The Department developed the Statewide Road Ranger Survey for Incident Responders as a result of a suggestion by District TIM personnel. The reporting of information on how other agencies' incident responders gauge Road Rangers performance is extremely helpful, especially since direct program feedback from field level incident responders is limited. The survey is designed to gather data from those who work and communicate with the Road Rangers on a regular basis.

The survey included the following:

- Determine the incident responders' opinion of the program.
- Compare results and customer satisfaction to last year's survey.
- Solicit comments and suggestions to improve the program from the incident responder's perspective.

*"I have worked fire/rescue for twenty seven years. Few things are more dangerous for the public than their car being disabled on the highway, let alone when they attempt to fix a flat without safety equipment, traffic cones and lighting. Although the numbers will never be known, I am positive many lives have been saved by the Road Ranger program and the BRAVE people who do the job, including some Fire/Police lives as well. Please thank them for me..." - Comment from the 2015-2016 Statewide Road Ranger Survey*

The Road Rangers are a critical part of the TIM Team. They provide free highway assistance services during incidents to reduce delay and improve safety for the motoring public and responders. Their services include clearing disabled vehicles and debris from travel lanes, assisting with jump-starts and tire changes, and making minor repairs. Road Rangers also help with maintaining safety and traffic flow around incident scenes.

To read the full report, please visit the TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>

First Responder Appreciation Award



Each District One TIM team, Collier-Lee-Charlotte-Lee, Sarasota-Manatee, and Polk County TIM teams, will be recognizing and awarding first responders that go "above and beyond" their duty while responding to incidents on the local highways. The first responders will be nominated by their local agencies and a board of local TIM members will vote on the nominations. We encourage all TIM agencies to participate in the "First Responder Appreciation" award and submit their nominations at the next TIM team meeting.

For additional information or if you have a first responder from your agency that you would like to nominate, please contact Chris Williams, ITS Operations/TIM Team Coordinator/ Road Ranger Program Project Manager at [Chris.Williams@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Chris.Williams@dot.state.fl.us) and/or 239.225.1915.

Florida Administrative Code 15B-9, Wrecker Qualifications and Allocation System



A committee has been formed to evaluate the Florida Administrative Code 15B-9, Wrecker Qualifications and Allocation System. The Florida Administrative Code has been a hot topic among the TIM team members. The wrecker's qualification code was originally created in 1992 and has been a concern of the wrecker community, as it is very outdated.

To learn more and to view the Florida Administrative Code 15B-9, please click on the following link: <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=15B-9>

National Preparedness Month

September is recognized as National Preparedness Month which serves as a reminder that we all must take action to prepare, now and throughout the year, for the types of emergencies that could affect us where we live, work, and also where we visit.



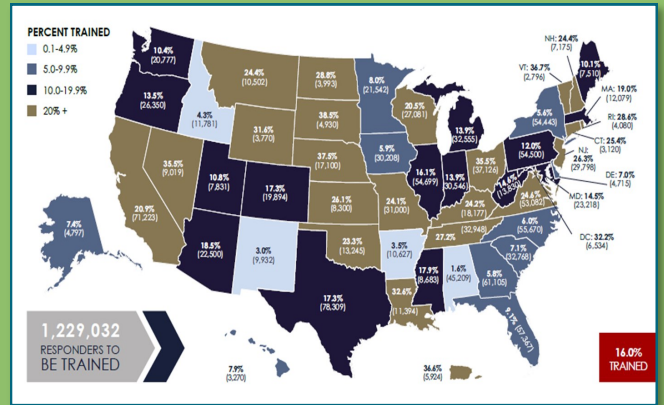
To learn more, please visit the following website: <https://www.ready.gov/september>

**Achieving The Goal of The National Traffic Incident Management Training (SHRP-2)**

The National Traffic Incident Management Training (SHRP-2) has been a topic of discussion this year. The training has been discussed at the recent National Traffic Incident Management (SHRP-2) Responder Training Symposium which was hosted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Florida Statewide Traffic Incident Management Workshop, and also at local TIM team meetings.

The theme at the National Traffic Incident Management (SHRP-2) Responder Training Symposium was “Achieving TIM Training Institutionalization”. The purpose of the symposium was to bring together TIM training leaders from each state and have a strategic and open discussion on what it is going to take to achieve the program’s goal of training 1,000,000+ responders over the next several years.<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, on July 21, 2016 the Florida Statewide Traffic Incident Management Workshop was held. The Florida Statewide TIM Workshop included all Florida Department of Transportation Districts and the Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise where TIM topics were discussed such as activities, accomplishments, and goals. Among the topics, attendees discussed the implementation progress of the National Traffic Incident Management Training (SHRP-2). According to FHWA, 206,570 responders have received the National Traffic Incident Management (SHRP-2) training as of August 22, 2016. Of this number, 8,352 participants completed the Train-the-Trainer course. Furthermore, the Florida Highway Administration (FHWA) has set a goal that 20% of first responders are to be trained in the National TIM Responder Training (SHRP-2). Currently, as of July 11, 2016 Florida is at 9.1%.<sup>1</sup>



*“The whole idea is to get responders to play in the sandbox together again. We have trained well in years past but always in our own little silos. We must break down these self-imposed barriers to provide better service to our constituents and a safer work area for ourselves at the incident scene.” - Indiana State Police*

What is the National Traffic Incident Management (SHRP-2) Training and why is it important to first responders? The National Traffic Incident Management Training (SHRP-2) program is building teams of highly-skilled responders who work together efficiently and effectively from their initial arrival on the incident scene to its investigation and eventual clearance. Developed through the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP-2), the training program is a collaborative effort of FHWA, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and the Transportation Research Board (TRB). It has been endorsed by the International Association of Police Chiefs, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Volunteer Fire Council, Towing and Recovery Association of America, and AASHTO.<sup>2</sup>

Many agencies and states are starting to support the training by incorporating it into their curriculum, while others are starting to make the training mandatory. On June 14, 2016, the Towing and Recovery Association of America, Inc. (TRAA) released a press release announcing an initiative to encourage all TRAA members, state towing associations, and their members to host the 4-hour version of the National TIM Responder Training.<sup>3</sup>

We are looking for “TIM champions” that will help support the National Traffic Incident Management Training (SHRP-2) goals of the Florida Highway Administration (FHWA) in reaching the 20% goal of first responders to be trained in the National TIM Responder Training (SHRP-2).

If you or someone in your agency are interested in the training, please contact Chris Williams, ITS Operations/TIM Team Coordinator/ Road Ranger Program Project Manager at Chris.[Williams@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Williams@dot.state.fl.us) and/or 239.225.1915.

(1) National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Training Program TIM Newsletter. U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. July 2016: [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/goshrp2/Content/Documents/TIM\\_Training\\_Newsletter.pdf](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/goshrp2/Content/Documents/TIM_Training_Newsletter.pdf)

(2) Training For Safer, Faster, Stronger, More Integrated Incident Response. US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration August 2016 Web. [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/goshrp2/Solutions/Reliability/L12\\_L32A\\_L32B/National\\_Traffic\\_Incident\\_Management\\_ResponderTraining\\_Program](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/goshrp2/Solutions/Reliability/L12_L32A_L32B/National_Traffic_Incident_Management_ResponderTraining_Program)

(3) TRAA Continues Push for Nationwide TIM Responder Training. Towing and Recovery Association of America. Press Release June 14, 2016. Web: <https://www.newswire.com/news/traa-continues-push-for-nationwide-tim-responder-training-11933090>

Article Submitted by Metric Engineering, Inc. – Brandy Boccuti

**T I M TEAM WEBSITE!**  
[www.swfltim.org](http://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.*