



74th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

September 2017



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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 12, 2017**



National Preparedness Month



September is recognized as National Preparedness Month. This September, National Preparedness Month will focus on planning, with an overarching theme "Disasters Don't

Plan Ahead. You Can." We should all take action to prepare! We are all able to help first responders in our community by training how to respond during an emergency and what to do when disaster strikes — where we live, work, and visit. The goal of NPM is to increase the overall number of individuals, families, and communities that engage in preparedness actions at home, work, business, and school,

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

The 2017 International Association of Chief of Police Annual Conference and Expo



Every year, the International Association of Chief of Police (IACP) Annual Conference and Expo provides

powerful advantages, bringing together an unmatched educational program, renowned keynote speakers, community-building special events and the largest collection of tactical equipment and technology solutions available. Join thousands of dedicated professionals from federal, state, county, local and tribal agencies on October 21-24, 2017 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

To learn more about the event, please visit the following website: <http://www.theiacpconference.org/>

National Teen Driver Safety Week

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15- to 19- year olds in the United States. In fact, in 2014 there were 2,679 teen (15 to 19) passenger vehicle drivers involved in fatal crashes and an estimated 123,000 teens were injured. Parents need to take the time to talk with their kids about the many dangers of driving. Those dangers

include alcohol, lack of seat belt use, distracted driving, speeding, and extra passengers.



These free safety materials can help start the conversation with your teen driver about the rules of the road. Even if you think

they don't hear you, they do. Set the Rules Before They Hit the Road.

To learn more, please visit the following website <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/teen-safety/national-teen-driver-safety-week>

First Responder Appreciation Award

The First Responder Appreciation Award was presented to Frank Gentilquore with Bald Eagle Towing at the recent Collier-Lee-Charlotte Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team meeting.



The TIM Team in District One has established the First Responder Appreciation Award in order to distinguish leaders in the TIM discipline. **The nomination is open to all disciplines and agencies who are a part of the Florida Department of Transportation District One TIM teams:** Collier-Lee-Charlotte, Sarasota-Manatee and Polk County. This award recognizes first responders that go "above and beyond" their duty while responding to incidents on the local highways.

Frank Gentilquore has been a true champion in both the towing industry and the Traffic Incident Management community.

If you would like to nominate a first responder that has gone "above and beyond" their duty, please contact Brandy Boccuti, TIM Coordinator, at bboccuti@metriceng.com and/or (407) 949-4283.

Emergency Shoulder Use

The newly implemented Hard Shoulder Running (HSR) emergency evacuation plan was recently “put to test” during Hurricane Irma. More specifically, in Florida, the adapted name is called Emergency Shoulder Use (ESU) which is Florida’s innovative strategy to increase traffic capacity during major hurricane evacuations using existing paved shoulders. Covering key corridors within the state, ESU plans replace the former contraflow or one-way plans.

The ESU plans cover the following roadway segments:

- Interstate 4 - Eastbound from Tampa (Hillsborough County) to Kissimmee (Osceola County)
- Interstate 10 - Westbound from Jacksonville (Duval County) to Lake City (Columbia County)
- Interstate 75 - Northbound from Wildwood (Sumter County) to the Georgia State Line (Hamilton County)
- Interstate 75 Alligator Alley - Northbound from Weston (Broward County) to Naples (Collier County) and Southbound from Naples (Collier County) to Weston (Broward County)¹

Emergency responders frequently drive on shoulders to reach incident scenes and use shoulders to park while responding to incidents. There are concerns over the potential loss of the ability to bypass congested traffic and remain out of the travelled way when responding to incidents. Incident response plans developed during the planning of hard shoulder use can mitigate these concerns. “Sweeps” of the shoulder before it opens and the construction of turnouts reduce the likelihood of the shoulder being blocked. A fleet of dedicated incident response vehicles positioned at multiple locations along the facility can also decrease incident response times.²

If dynamic signs are used, additional incident management and response options are available. Local emergency response agencies should be given the authority to order the closure of the shoulder and have a clear line of communication to the Traffic Management Center (TMC) for doing so. Closing the shoulder clears it of vehicles and provides emergency responders with an uncongested path to incident scenes.

Successful deployment requires a well-planned, interdisciplinary collaboration with a variety of different stakeholders, including planning, operations, design, maintenance, and executive leadership staff within a Department of Transportation; law enforcement; emergency responders; bus operators; MPO staff; and FHWA Division Office staff.³

To learn more and to view the Florida Department of Transportation ESU video, please visit the following website at: <http://fdot.gov/emergencymanagement/esu/>

Additionally, at the next round of Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team meetings on October 12th, first responders will be able to discuss and share any “lessons learned” from the recent emergency evacuation event during Hurricane Irma.



- (1) Emergency Shoulder Use (ESU). Florida Department of Transportation. September 2017. Web. <http://fdot.gov/emergencymanagement/esu/>
- (2) Use of Freeway Shoulders for Travel - Guide for Planning, Evaluating, and Designing Part-Time Shoulder Use as a Traffic Management Strategy. February 2017 Web. <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop15023/>
- (3) Synthesis of Active Traffic Management Experiences in Europe and the United States. August 2017. <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop10031/sec3.htm>

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.