



85th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

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Upcoming Events:

TIM Team Meeting :

Thursday
October 10, 2019
10:00 am
Polk County Sheriff's Office
1891 Jim Keene Boulevard
Winter Haven, FL 33880



District One Road Ranger Received the FHP Award for Above and Beyond the Call of Duty



District One's Road Ranger Reinaldo Rivera was presented with an honorary FHP Award for the "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty" for his heroic life saving efforts at the recent TIM team meeting.

On Wednesday July 24th, 2019, in Collier County, Florida, at 10:35 am, the FMRCC received a 911 call advising of a 18 year old female experiencing a possible heart attack on Interstate 75 (State Road 93) Eastbound at Mile Marker 88.

Road Ranger Reinaldo Rivera was first on scene. Rivera observed the mother holding her daughter in a seated position with her head down crying. The road ranger observed the female to be pale, not breathing, and blood was dripping from the corner of her mouth. The road ranger took over, laid the 18 year old down, and gave a couple firm, deep chest compressions. The 18 year old gasped and regained consciousness as FHP arrived. FHP presented Rivera with the "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty" for the quick actions that saved the life of the young female.

The Results of the 2019 Traffic Incident Management Team Self-Assessments



Federal Highway Administration

The Annual 2019 Traffic Incident Management Team Self-Assessment (TIMSA) Surveys were completed at the recent District One TIM Team meetings in Polk, Collier-Lee-Charlotte, and Sarasota-Manatee County.

These annual assessments have enabled state and local program managers and practitioners to evaluate their TIM programs and identify strengths and weaknesses in their programs in order to prioritize program activities and initiatives.

Please make sure to attend the next TIM team meeting to review the results.

National Traffic Incident Response Awareness Week

November 10-16, 2019

Every minute of every day emergency responders across the country work to help save lives at the scene of traffic incidents. Too many are struck on scene. Too many die. The goal of National Traffic Incident Response Awareness Week is, for the fourth year, to reach out to every responder, and to every driver, and to every passenger, to make it more clear that every person has a role to play. Visit the [National TIM Network](#) where you can find resources to help reach out to your communities, to your organizations, and to your hero responders.

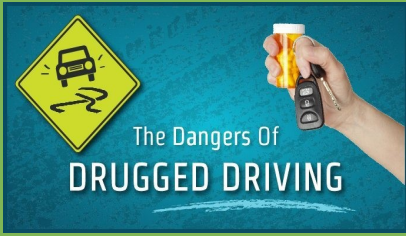


First Responder Best Practices



On Monday, July 8, 2019, in Polk County, Road Ranger Michael DeLong's truck was struck by an oncoming vehicle while he was assisting a disabled vehicle. DeLong had his proper arrow board activated and was waiting inside his vehicle, which is the life saving decision that helped prevent fatal injuries to the Road Ranger. This is only a small example of the dangers to the first responders that respond to incidents on the highway.

Drugged Driving, The Influence of Legalization of Medical Marijuana



Driving under the influence of drugs is causing an increasing number of crashes and fatalities. The topic of the “Three D’s of Drivers” which is distraction, drinking and drowsiness has been a topic among at our first responders at past TIM team Meetings. We have even had a guest speaker, a professor, present a case study to the TIM teams on the statistics of the different types of distracted drivers and their delayed response times while driving.

In November 2016, Florida passed Amendment 2, or the Use of Marijuana for Debilitating Medical Conditions ballot, allowing medical marijuana to be cultivated and dispensed to qualified patients. The ballot was created to ensure safe access and availability of medical cannabis to qualifying patients with debilitating conditions. Florida is the first state in the south to adopt proactive measures towards cannabis. Under the new legislation, those with debilitating medical ailments determined by a licensed state physician will be allowed to use marijuana for medicinal purposes. Additionally, caregivers will be allowed to register with The Department of Health and assist qualifying patients with their medical use of marijuana. Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers are currently open to qualified medical patients and caregivers.¹

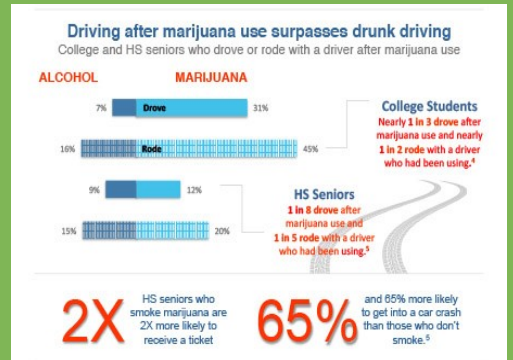
Detection of marijuana in drivers involved in traffic crashes has become increasingly common. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 12.6 percent of weekend nighttime drivers tested positive for tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the component that gives marijuana its psychological effects.²

Testing for drug impairment is problematic due to limitations of drug-detecting technology and the lack of an agreed-upon limit to determine impairment, as opposed to merely the presence of marijuana, which can stay in the system for weeks, no longer causing impairment. In addition, tracking marijuana-impaired driving is difficult because drivers who may be under the influence of marijuana and alcohol are often cited for a high blood alcohol concentration and rarely tested for additional substances.³

The effects of specific drugs on driving skills differ depending on how they act in the brain. For example, marijuana can slow reaction time, impair judgment of time and distance, and decrease coordination. Drivers who have used cocaine or methamphetamine can be aggressive and reckless when driving. All of these effects can lead to vehicle crashes.⁴

Research studies have shown negative effects of marijuana on drivers, including an increase in lane weaving, poor reaction time, and altered attention to the road. Use of alcohol with marijuana makes drivers more impaired, causing even more lane weaving. Some studies report that opioids can cause drowsiness and impair thinking and judgment. Other studies have found that being under the influence opioids while driving can double your risk of having a crash.⁴

Every year, a significant number of first responders, law enforcement, tow truck drivers and others end up being struck by other cars while working the scene. The increase of distracted drivers will unfortunately increase the risk to the first responders. However, by taking advantage of trainings such as the National Traffic Incident Management (SHRP2) Training, it can help reduce the risk by focusing on quickly clearing a scene and preventing additional crashes. This is important because the longer it takes to clear a scene, the greater the danger is to the first responders.



- (1) Florida Medical Marijuana Laws. Medical Marijuana. Web 09.01.2019 <https://www.medicalmarijuana.com/law/florida-medical-marijuana-laws/>
- (2) Auto Crashes are on the Rise in Marijuana States. CNBC. Phil LeBeau. Web 07.27.2017. <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/06/21/auto-crashes-are-on-the-rise-in-marijuana-states.html>
- (3) Drugged Driving. National Conference of State Legislatures. Web 03.08.2019. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/drugged-driving-overview.aspx>
- (4) National Institute on Drug Use. Drugged Driving. Web 03.01.2019 <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/drugged-driving>

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

