



66th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

January 2016



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Support Your Local Traffic Incident Management Team 1

Traffic Incident Management in Construction and Maintenance Work Zones 2

Upcoming Events:

Next TIM Team Meeting:
County Sheriff's Office Comp
Procop Room
1891 Jim Keene Boulevard
Winter Haven, FL 33880
10:00 AM
• April 14, 2016



Support Your Local

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team

How important are you to Traffic Incident Management? You Are Very Important! Traffic Incident Management is action taken when a traffic incident occurs. The goal is to manage traffic in a safe and timely manner through training, planning and full cooperation of all the responding agencies. 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.

What is Traffic Incident Management?



Traffic incident management is the process of coordinating the resources of a number of different partner agencies and private sector companies to detect, respond to, and clear traffic incidents as

quickly as possible to reduce the impacts of incidents on safety and congestion, while protecting the safety of on-scene responders and the traveling public.

Program Strengths:

- Promotes more effective multi-agency, coordinated, and planned incident response
• Improves travel-time reliability for person and freight trips on Nation's highways by improving incident clearance time
• Reduces congestion, collisions, and delays caused by secondary crashes
• Improves responder safety

Why is TIM important?

When an accident occurs, congestion quickly builds up and chances of a secondary incident increases. The sooner incidents are detected, the sooner safety personnel can respond to the incident and clear it from the roads, thereby allowing traffic lanes to re-open and traffic to return to normal conditions. TIM assists in the creation of a safe work zone with proper signage and equipment for emergency crews responding to an incident.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is responsible for documenting the numbers of crashes and fatalities on the Nation's highways. In 2011, more than 32,300 motorists and others lost their lives in highway incidents. Among the fatalities were trained re-

sponders who died while trying to assist the public.



In 2013, according to estimates compiled by officials with the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization in Virginia: nationwide 120 police officers, 83 firefighters, 21 emergency medical services personnel, and 34 tow operators were killed in the line of duty. These numbers emphasize the importance of maintaining a focus on safety during incident response.

In addition to those killed on the job, many others are injured or experience near-miss situations. First responders risk their personal safety to provide medical assistance to victims and to investigate the cause of crashes, while highway workers and tow operators work adjacent to traffic to clear the scene and resume normal operations. Other drivers also are at risk of becoming involved in secondary crashes due to unexpected slowing or stopping, or distraction caused by the primary crash scene.

"The success of TIM programs across the country, and around the world, may be determined by the interdisciplinary training that the stakeholders embrace and use. To be safe, effective, and efficient at incident scenes we must all know some about what the other responders do. Incident scenes are much like the pit stop analogy used in the SHRP2 TIM for Responders training. All of the members of the "crew" must be at least somewhat familiar with the roles of the other members." - Rusty James, TIM Network Liaison

Help support our TIM team by participating in your local TIM teams and champion others from your agency to attend!

POLK COUNTY TIM TEAM:

Polk County Sheriff's Office Complex, Procop Room, 1891 Jim Keene Boulevard, Winter Haven, FL 33880

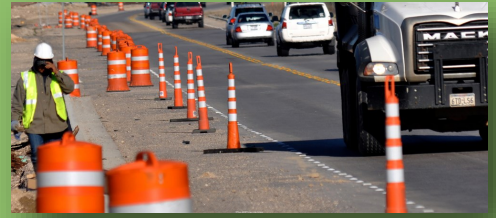
2016 MEETING DATES

- January 14, 2016
• April 14, 2016
• July 14, 2016
• October 13, 2016

Please visit the TIM Team website where you can access the latest information about the TIM team:
http://www.swfltim.org/

Traffic Incident Management in Construction and Maintenance Work Zones

The career of a Traffic Incident Management (TIM) responder is both rewarding and satisfying; this is evident by the countless heartfelt stories told by Incident First Responders and other TIM Team members. The career of a TIM responder is also dangerous, as is any career related to active high speed roadways. TIM responders are continuously risking their lives on the roadway in an effort to save lives, clear incidents, and prevent incidents. Often TIM Team members are on the roadway shoulder assisting stranded drivers, picking up road debris, and assisting law enforcement with traffic control. During ongoing construction projects, construction zones are created within a segment of roadway to help protect construction personnel. However, the entire construction project limits have an adverse effect on the TIM Responders and the Towing industry. These construction zones pose challenges to all parties involved with traffic incident management, including but not limited to: reduced vehicle access, lane shifts, reduced sight distances, and physical barriers. Traffic incidents occur regularly but are more frequent within Construction Zones. Particular attention must be given to ensure the safety of the responders as well as the traveling public.



In 2004 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) updated the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 630 Title 23.I.G Part 630 subpart J to address more current issues affecting work zone safety and mobility.¹ "All highway construction and maintenance projects using federal-aid highway funds are required to develop transportation management plans (TMP) to ensure the safety of the motoring public, reduce the traffic mobility impacts and promote coordination within and around work zones. A TMP is a collection of administrative, procedural, and operational strategies for managing and mitigating the impacts of work zones."²

Within this initiative a Work Zone Operations Best Practices Guidebook was developed by FHWA to inform local and nationwide agencies of ideas and guidelines regarding Traffic Incident Management. A crucial best practice relating to Incident Management is "Incident Management in Work Zones". This best practice "consists of services selected to respond to incidents in work zones, keeping them free of disabled vehicles. Incidents are identified through various sources: traffic patrols, maintenance patrols, State Police, CB radios, cell phones, and traffic flow irregularities identified at a Traffic Management Center."³

Some of the major benefits of utilizing these best practices is enhanced TIM responder safety, enhanced motorist safety, and the reduction of traveler delay. Utilizing lessons learned and adopting best practices is always a good idea, especially when trying to save lives. While these guidelines may not eliminate all incidents, they can be used to improve safety in work zones.

Work Zone Safety It's Everyone's Job.

- 1) Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule Web site. Federal Highway Administration. Retrieved January 11, 2016 from: http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/final_rule.htm
- 2) Executive Summary: Traffic Incident Management in Construction and Maintenance Work Zones. US Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration. Retrieved January 11, 2016 from: <http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop08056x/fhwahop08056x.pdf>
- 3) Work Zone Operations Best Practices Guidebook, 3rd Edition, August 2013. US Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration. Retrieved January 11, 2016 from: <http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/practices/best/documents/bpguidebook.pdf>

Article Submitted by Metric Engineering, Inc.. – Scott Agans

T I M TEAM WEBSITE!

www.swfilitim.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.