



44th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

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Upcoming Events:

TIM Team Meeting:

**Thursday
July 12, 2012
10:00 am
City of Lakeland
Construction Building
407 Fairway Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33801**



Seniors vs. Teens: Who Are the Safer Drivers?



Incident Responders often debate who causes the majority of automobile crashes. A recent article from the Tampa Bay Times compared accidents between the youth and the elderly.

Florida has 455 licensed drivers age 100 and older. Stories of dangerous elderly drivers are common; the stereotypes rampant. They drive too slowly. They react late. They mistake the gas pedal for the brakes and slam into buildings. However, drivers 90 years and older actually have the lowest rate of crashes in the state, according to the most recent data from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

There are about 79 crashes for every 10,000 licensed drivers, roughly 3.75 times lower than the 15 to 19 year old demographic, which has the highest crash rate. That demographic sees about 364 crashes for every 10,000 licensed drivers. But seniors fare worse when you consider miles driven. Judged that way, statistics have shown, the rate of crashes jumps markedly after age 80.

There's no age when drivers are required to put away the keys. Driving is a personal freedom. It's convenient, fun, a symbol of one's independence. State officials want to ensure that older drivers "maintain their driving independence as long as they continue to drive safely and confidently," said Florida Highway Patrol spokesman Steve Gaskins. Elderly drivers have few additional requirements in order to renew a license. Drivers 80 and older must renew their license every six years instead of eight, and take a vision exam every renewal instead of every other one. "You're getting your vision tested every six years instead of every 16," said Courtney Heidelberg, a spokeswoman with the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, explaining the difference.



Is there an age when drivers should retire the keys for good? "There's a certain age when people probably shouldn't be driving anymore," said Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Ananth Prasad. "I'll get there, you'll get there, we'll all get there."

The number of licensed drivers between 91 and 100 is much larger. According to the HSMV here's a breakdown in our county of drivers aged 91 to 100 years as of January 2012:

COUNTY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
Polk	836	716	1,552
Manatee	821	683	1,504
Sarasota	1,574	1,335	2,882
Collier	750	723	1,473
Lee	1,178	1,129	2,300
Charlotte	475	457	932

Redacted in part by permission; Tampa Bay Times staff writer Marissa Lang and researcher John Martin contributed to this report. Danny Valentine can be reached at dvalentine@tampabay.com or (813) 226-3386. **Article submitted by Bill Fuller, ITS Traffic Incident Management Project Manager, FDOT District 1.**

Polk County Hurricane Expo 2012



Speak with area experts on how to prepare for any hazardous weather event, visit vendors and exhibits.

The event will take place at the Lake Eva Banquet Hall at 799 Johns Avenue, Haines City from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

To learn more about the event please click on the following link: <http://hurricaneexpo.polk-county.net/>

Free Training Modules

Respondersafety.com from the Emergency Responder Safety Institute (ERSI) is now releasing free training modules on The Responder Safety Learning Network which is provided in part of the FEMA Fire Grant Program. To access the Responder Safety please visit the following site: <http://learning.respondersafety.com/>



New and Enhanced TIM Network Responder



The first edition of the new and enhanced TIM Network Responder. With this new format for The Responder you will have access to a document library, membership directory, social networking and more!

<http://timnetwork.org/category/the-responder/>

30th Annual Lifesavers Conference



There still may be time to register for the National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities, held in Orlando, FL, June 14-16, 2012. Each year, the Lifesavers Conference provides a forum that delivers relevant and timely common-sense solutions to today's critical highway safety problems.

For more information on the conference, accommodations, and registration please visit the following site: www.lifesaversconference.org

2012 Traffic Incident Management (TIM)

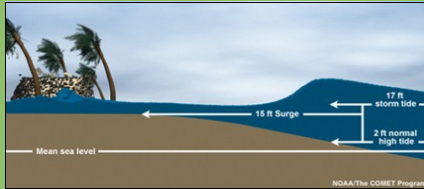
Self-Assessment (SA)

Please plan to join us at the next regularly scheduled TIM Team meeting for the 2012 Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Self-Assessment (SA). We will also be reviewing the Local Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Hurricane Preparedness

Attention Floridians! It is that time again when hurricane preparedness is on every resident's mind. With that being said, the Federal Government has designated May 27th through June 2nd as the National Hurricane Preparedness Week.

Unfortunately, too many times Florida residents do not perform their due diligence of informing their families, friends, and other individuals about the dangers of hurricanes and how to prepare for catastrophic events. This is why the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Center has developed this campaign to inform the nation about the dangers of the hurricane and what is needed in preparation for unpredictable natural disasters. Starting on May 27th, the National Weather Service will assign each day a theme of what course of action residents should take in order to reduce the effects of hurricane disasters. ⁽¹⁾ The theme days are designated as follows: May 27th - Hurricane Basics, May 28th - Storm Surge, May 29th - Winds, May 30th - Inland Flooding May 31st - Forecast Process, June 1st - Get a Plan!, and June 2nd - Taking Action



A preparedness document was developed by the NOAA, the US Department of Homeland Security, and the American Red Cross called the *Tropical Cyclones: A Preparedness Guide*. The guide informs the reader on the definition of a tropical cyclone and the classification of each of the storms which is categorized by its sustained winds which are measured by miles per hours (mph). ⁽²⁾ The preparedness guide also defines the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a rating between 1 and 5 based on a hurricane's sustained wind speed. This scale estimates the potential of property damage to the local residents. Hurricanes reaching a Category 3 or higher are considered major hurricanes because of the high potential of significant loss in

both lives and property damage. Category 1 and 2 storms may have a lower risk in damage, however, they are still dangerous and require preventative measures. ⁽³⁾

Due to the coastal nature of Florida, one of the topics that is discussed during the National Hurricane Preparedness Week is storm surge and storm tide. A storm surge is an offshore rise of water associated with a low pressure weather system caused by tropical cyclones and certain types of Hurricanes. Storm surges are caused primarily by high winds pushing on the ocean's surface. The wind causes the water to pile up higher than the ordinary sea level. ⁽⁴⁾

Planning is the most important aspect when hurricane season is upon us. According to the NOAA website (every resident should:

- Assemble your Disaster Supply Kit.
- Write out your Family Disaster Plan.

When a **Watch** is issued you should:

- Check your Disaster Supply Kit. Make sure nothing is missing.
- Activate your Family Disaster Plan.

When a **Warning** is issued you should:

- Ready your Disaster Supply Kit for use.
- Use your Family Disaster Plan. ⁽⁵⁾

In conclusion, having a well thought out plan will enable residents to gather their family, friends, and pets together in a quick and effective manner. By having all of the necessary supplies and a family disaster plan will make sure you and your family are one step ahead of the game. Also make sure to conduct hurricane drills with small children and the elderly to ensure they understand which steps are needed to be safe while evacuating. ⁽³⁾

(1) American Red Cross: www.redcross.org

(2) Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.ready.gov

(3) 2012 Hurricane Preparedness Week: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/>

(4) NOAA National Weather Service: www.weather.gov/safety.php

(5) NOAA Hurricane Preparedness, Take Action: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/action.shtml>

Article by Scott Agans, 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.