



41st Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

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**Upcoming Events:**

**TIM Team Meeting :**

Thursday  
**January 12th, 2012**  
**10:00 am**  
 University of South Florida  
 Polytechnic  
 3433 Winter Lake Rd  
 Lakeland, FL 33803  
 LTB Building  
 Room # TBA



**Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC)**

The Rapid Incident Scene Clearance program, or RISC for short, originally started on Florida's Turnpikes and is now a tool used to manage traffic incidents on the Interstate or limited access highway systems. The purpose of RISC is to safely and quickly remove major incidents from the roadway in order to meet the goal of resuming normal and safe traffic operations as quickly as possible which will reduce the risk of secondary crashes. RISC is a statewide incentive program for limited access highways. It is activated when a participating vendor opens the road more efficiently by using ultra heavy duty equipment.

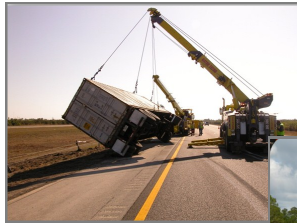
Incidents involving large vehicles should not automatically trigger a RISC event. Guidelines for possible RISC activation are:

- Any incident affecting the travel lanes
- Tractor trailer combinations and trucks 16,000 pounds or more
- Rollovers blocking one or more travel lanes
- Multiple truck crash with loss of load or shifted loads on or affecting the travel lanes.
- Lost tandems or split trailers on or affecting a travel lanes
- Truck fires with or without tires burned off or cargo spilled on the roadway
- Major impacts with barrier walls, guard rail, and/or bridge supports
- Motor homes, motor coaches, busses, aircrafts, and large yacht type boats

Note: Any complex or extended incident where vehicles are not easily towed from the scene or are creating a traffic hazard may be candidates for a RISC activation.

Key RISC times to be reported to the Regional Traffic Management Center:

- Notification to vendor of request to activate RISC (Vendor has 15 minutes to respond by phone and confirm RISC activation)
- Vendor Arrival On Scene (Vendor has 60 minutes to arrive on scene with 2 wreckers and MOT)
- Notice to Proceed (vendor now given 90 minutes to clear all lanes as linked to the Florida's "Open Roads Policy" Incident Scene Clearance (All travel lanes open and functioning).
- Scene completely cleared.



What makes an incident a candidate for RISC? Incident Location. Is the incident near or in a major city? Is the incident at or near a major interstate interchange? Are viable alternate routes available? Time of Incident occurrence; Did the incident occur at or near rush hour periods? Is there a special event planned or occurring? Is it a holiday weekend? Condition of vehicle? Are the tires burned off? Is the vehicle upright? Has the vehicle lost or shifted its load?

Incentive payments are based on the promptness and accuracy of the Vendor. Vendors should be detailed oriented and also keep very accurate logs of the RISC activations, including digital photographs of both pre and post removal of incidents. Investigating officers should be aware that "Time Stamping" of discrete events during the incident response will be extremely helpful. Lastly, Vendors are expected to obtain and maintain training per the scope of services provided in their contract.

Florida Department of Transportation District Traffic Incident Management (TIM) coordinators

can provide assistance with MOT training courses.

The Florida Department of Transportation District Six produced a Rapid Incident Scene Clearance Demo video which is available on the TIM Team website at: [http://www.swftim.org/helpful\\_links.htm#training](http://www.swftim.org/helpful_links.htm#training)

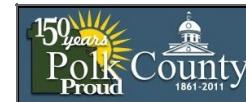
**Article submitted by Bill Fuller, ITS Traffic Incident Management Project Manager, FDOT District 1.**

For more details or if you have any questions on the RISC program, please contact Bill Fuller at (239)225-9815.

**Polk Counties Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan**

Please visit the Polk County Government website to read about their Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). The comprehensive emergency management plan specifies the purpose, organization, responsibilities and facilities of agencies and officials of the political subdivision in the mitigation of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from emergencies.

[http://www.polkcounty.net/subpage.aspx?menu\\_id=20&nav=res&id=15680](http://www.polkcounty.net/subpage.aspx?menu_id=20&nav=res&id=15680)



## The I-95 Corridor Coalition Quick Clearance Workshop



Responder and motorist safety is the top priority of every state agency and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One is no different. There was an immediate need to have the ability to share the ideas not only to the local traveler but also across state lines. This is why the I-95 Corridor Coalition was formed. This “beyond boundaries” partnership of transportation agencies, toll authorities, and other related organizations have the ability to enlighten policy makers to formulate informed decisions regarding transportation management and operational issues. Many times these issues or decisions will have an impact on a single agency or the entire multi-state jurisdiction. This unique group of sixty public agencies has the ability to transmit information from Maine all the way to Florida. In 1993, volunteer driven, it was officially formed to enhance transportation mobility, safety, efficiency, and communications within the I-95 roadway corridor and to provide a more informed incident management workforce.

As part of the I-95 Corridor Coalition Incident Management Outreach Program, this unique partnership of members will be providing to the Florida Department of Transportation District One, Traffic Incident Management (TIM) team, a workshop for quick incident management clearance times on Wednesday, December 14, 2011, from 9:00am - 2:00pm at the Morgan Family Community Center located at 6207 West Price Boulevard, Northport, Florida 34291. The Quick Clearance Workshop will educate and instruct first responders on industry specific incident management and quick clearance laws, clearance policies and procedures, and a real world lessons learned by other agencies within the coalition.

The Coalition has developed many quick clearance programs which includes the “Move It” Program. The I-95 Corridor Coalition recognizes the key to quick clearance is to first ensure that all parties are safe and then to quickly open the congested roadway. To do this many of the coalition members will need to be well versed on clearance and motorist property laws within the state of Florida and the geographical boundaries of FDOT District One. The “Move It” law must be understood so that insurance companies have the ability to provide a full insurance recovery and also allow the law enforcement agencies to conduct a full and thorough investigation of the crash site. This workshop will inform many of the responders that these laws are varied from state to state and sometimes from county to county depending on which roadway the incident occurs, but also there are different laws for vehicle removal and towing.



Finally, The Quick Clearance Workshop program discuss the Traffic Incident Management Certification Programs and the use of Service Patrol on the roadways to ensure stranded motorists have the ability to gain assistance for vehicle related issues (tire change, jump-start, etc.). There are no national certifications for traffic incident management. However, the National Traffic Incident Management Coalition (NTIMC) is making an effort to set a National Uniform Goal (NUG).<sup>(1)</sup> The draft of the document includes the following incident responder goals:

- Responder safety
- Safe, quick clearance
- Prompt, reliable, and interoperable communications

The NTIMC is discussing whether to adopt a goal of joint development by TIM stakeholders of an interdisciplinary TIM responder curriculum and a voluntary certification program. This would be considered an advanced interdisciplinary training in addition to the basic training and certification programs that each discipline already has in place.<sup>(1)</sup>

This is only a few of the topics that will be discussed during the Quick Clearance Workshop, Wednesday, December 14, 2011. The registration form is located on the TIM Team website or the following link: <http://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/ct441fo932vD3>.

The TIM Team Members and all others are encouraged to attend this informative I-95 Corridor Coalition Workshop.

(1) I-95 Corridor Coalition, January 2011: [http://i95coalition.net/i95/Portals/0/Public\\_Files/uploaded/Incident-toolkit/toolkit\\_document\\_dvd.pdf](http://i95coalition.net/i95/Portals/0/Public_Files/uploaded/Incident-toolkit/toolkit_document_dvd.pdf)

Article by Scott Agans, Metric Engineering

## T I M TEAM WEBSITE!

[www.swftim.org](http://www.swftim.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.*