



40th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

September 2011



Appreciation for Our Road Rangers



During the first quarter of fiscal year 2011/2012, July and August, our District-One Road Rangers performed over 6,600 activities - with 8,500 accident free hours of patrol on I-75 from Collier County to Hillsborough County and on I-4 in Polk County.

The 2010-2011 State-Wide Road Ranger Survey results are in and District One comprised 11% of the total of 543 responses received. The new online survey distribution method was very beneficial in reaching a large audience in a short timeframe. 94% of the total or 512 respondents utilized the online survey and 31 responders submitted hard copies. This year's survey period was from January 26, 2011 through March 31, 2011. Most comments were in appreciation of the Road Ranger program with many asking for additional nighttime coverage on I-4 in Polk County, between Tampa and Orlando's Disney World attractions. 24/7 coverage has also been requested for the Alligator Alley section of I-75 in Collier County. Most of the survey responses come from our Law Enforcement partners and are very helpful in identifying areas of improvement for the following year.

Several program improvements have come as a result of survey responses. Better Road Ranger communication and dispatching has been established through the use of State Law Enforcement Radios. Additional Incident Scene Clearance training sessions have been held which was a big request from last year's survey.



On August 20th and 27th, training sessions were held for Road Ranger certification in CPR and First Aid. Road Rangers are dedicated to doing the right thing and participate in these training session over and above their normal duty hours. Future training session will consist of Responder Safety Training, First aid/CPR, traffic incident management, and training in current towing procedures, all of which contribute to the Safe and Quick clearance of an incident. The Road Ranger Survey is disseminated annually State wide, and is an important tool used by the Department to recognize program improvement. The survey also gives respondents oppor-

tunity to provide written comments where many have expressed their appreciation for the Road Ranger program.

We appreciate Road Rangers for the vital role they play in limiting highway congestion and increasing motorist safety each and every day. Article submitted by Bill Fuller, ITS Traffic Incident Management Project Manager, FDOT District 1.

The I-95 Corridor Coalition's Eco-Driving Campaign



The **Eco-Driving Campaign** educates drivers about easy changes they can make to reduce fuel consumption and wear & tear on their vehicles – simultaneously saving money and reducing environmental impacts. Before hitting the road read the tips below:

- Get the junk out of your trunk and save \$.04–\$.08/gallon. An extra 100 pounds reduces gas mileage by up to 2%.
- Fully inflate your tires and save \$.11/gallon. Experts estimate a quarter of all vehicles run on underinflated tires.
- Change your oil and save \$.04–\$.08/gallon. Using manufacturer recommended grade of motor oil improves fuel economy by 1–2%.
- Avoid aggressive driving and save \$1.25/gallon. Speeding, rapid acceleration and hard braking can reduce gas mileage by 33% at highway speeds.

For more tips and to read more about the campaign please visit:

[http://www.i95coalition.org/i95 CoalitionEcoDriving-Campaign/tabid/216/Default.aspx](http://www.i95coalition.org/i95%20CoalitionEcoDriving-Campaign/tabid/216/Default.aspx)

Incident and Emergency Responder Day



The 18th ITS World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems is pleased to invite emergency responders with an interest in intelligent transportation technologies that support their work to the World Congress on Wednesday October 19th for free admission. For more information please visit the TIM Team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org/>

2011 Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Self-Assessment (SA)

We would like to thank the TIM Team for their participation in the 2011 Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Self Assessment (SA) and look forward to reviewing the results with the TIM Teams.



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Upcoming Events:

TIM Team Meeting :

Thursday
October 13th, 2011
10:00 am
University of South Florida
Polytechnic
3433 Winter Lake Rd
Lakeland, FL 33803
LTB Building
Room # 1104



Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS)

SLERS - Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System is a single, common radio network that services the State of Florida's Law Enforcement, Emergency Management Services, and Road Ranger radio voice communications needs throughout the state. SLERS communicates with systems consisting of 200 combined microwave sites, RF multi-sites, and RF simulcast sites which operate on 800 MHz. The SLERS all-digital radio network covers 98% of mobile coverage and over 60,000 square miles (including 25 miles offshore). There are over 17,500 radios installed in Regional Traffic Management Centers (RTMC), law enforcement patrol cars, incident responder vehicles, boats, motorcycles and aircraft throughout the State of Florida.⁽¹⁾

The goal of SLERS is to provide a communication system where members of the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) team can all communicate on the same radio frequency. In an emergency situation timing is everything, and spreading vital information over multiple communication outlets can cause confusion, especially if the message is from different sources. The use of the SLERS 800 MHz system allows law enforcement, TMC personnel, and Road Rangers to communicate crucial information to all members quickly and over the same channel, allowing any information to be shared by all in real time.

It is the responsibility of the Joint Task Force (JTF) member agencies with the Department of Management Services to provide dispatch operations including radio infrastructure, and technical assistance. The seven dispatch centers, also referred to as RTMCs, are integrated with SLERS. These centers provide officer tracking and dispatch support services for the participating agencies. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) is also co-located at six of the RTMCs. The Florida Highway Patrol manages the Joint Dispatch Centers with facilities, equipment, and manpower provided by participating agencies.

In 2003, the RTMCs and the FWCC dispatch centers implemented a computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system. The CAD system uses SmartCop software, and tracks any active and closed incidents for all JTF agencies using dispatch services. The CAD system also has an updated master database of all radio users. The Geographic Information System (GIS) components provide the law enforcement officers with a graphical view of incident locations



By providing a common communications system to state law enforcement agencies, the State of Florida achieves:

- Effective interagency, interoperable communications;
- Coordinated communications with local public safety entities;
- A viable solution to radio frequency congestion;
- Replacement of older, agency-specific systems without duplication of effort.⁽¹⁾

The relative ease of SLERS has allowed District One's Road Rangers, and TMC Personnel to quickly learn the system, including the Law Enforcement codes. In doing so all personnel have been able to effectively communicate in a professional manner, and in a language which everyone understands, eliminating confusion. During down time the District operates on separate channels, ensuring information sent is heard by only those who need it.

The District is planning on expanding SLERS to all TMC operators in the SWIFT SunGuide Center, and plans to purchase headsets and a foot pedal. The District is also in the process of finalizing a contract for batteries, and maintenance supplies.

(1) State Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) , Department of Management Services,

http://www.dms.myflorida.com/suncom/public_safety_bureau/radio_communications/statewide_law_enforcement_radio_system_slers

Article by 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.