



105th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

January 2023



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## Upcoming Events:

Next TIM Team Meeting  
Thursday, April 13, 2023  
10:00 am

Polk County Sheriff's Office  
East Region Command  
3635 Avenue G NW  
Winter Haven, FL 33880



## Going Above the Call of Duty

### "Recognition for Our FDOT District One Road Rangers"

While all of our responders from our District One TIM teams risk their lives every day, and our members are more successful when they work as a team, individuals are recognized for actions that go "above the call of duty."

On November 27, 2022, Jeff Abraham, Traffic Management Center (TMC) Operator, spotted a wrong-way driver on the 134.9 northbound closed-circuit television (CCTV). It was a flatbed tow truck driving northbound on the southbound left shoulder, loaded with two vehicles. In under 20 seconds, the wrong-way driver event was created with signs posted, as well as the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) was notified.

Road Ranger 107, John French, was also quickly notified, as he was in the area. The TMC staff along with FHP dispatch, and the FHP on-duty sergeant watched the incident on the TMC CCTV. This included the tow truck driver traveling down the left shoulder, until he was parallel to the entrance ramp, still traveling the wrong-way. The tow truck then crossed all three travel lanes, almost causing a crash, with TMC and FHP as witnesses. The tow truck continued traveling down the entrance ramp heading in the wrong-way direction. Road Ranger French was updated to the tow trucks location, as FHP called their rotation wrecker for the area. The wrecker's dispatch was told to advise their driver to stop, and it did on the right shoulder of the entrance ramp, still facing the wrong way. FHP initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle, as Road Ranger French also arrived on the scene, having been notified that the vehicle had come to a stop. He quickly verified the wrecker company and gave accurate data as FHP began arriving on the scene, calmly and efficiently. The driver of the Tow Truck was issued three citations.

We want to give **kudos** to **Operator Jeff Abraham, Road Ranger John French, and FHP** for a **quick and efficient response!** This successful wrong-way driver stop would not have been possible without a great team.

## Super Bowl LVII Enforcement Campaign

### "Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk"

The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) along with local law enforcement will be enforcing the Super Bowl LVII impaired campaign on February 12, 2023, **Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk.**

Game Plan for Super Bowl: Are You Drinking or Are You Driving? This is NOT the Time for an Option Play. The Super Bowl is America's most watched national sporting event. On February 12th, Super Bowl LVII Sunday, there will game day social activities all over the country that will likely include drinking. That's why the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and law enforcement officials are urging football fans to call the play now: drinking OR driving. If you plan on drinking on Super Bowl Sunday, designate a sober driver to get you home safely.



## The Importance of the Traffic Incident Management Team

As we kick off the 2023 new year we want to take this time to reflect on the importance of the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) teams and its success to the TIM community.

Traffic incidents are unplanned roadway events that affect or impede the normal flow of traffic. Traffic incidents increase the likelihood of secondary crashes and pose a threat to the safety of incident responders as well as the traveling public. Incidents affect travel reliability, commerce, and transportation system performance. One of the essential responsibilities of transportation and public safety agencies is to ensure the safe and quick clearance of traffic incidents.

TIM consists of a planned and coordinated multi-disciplinary process to detect, respond to, and clear traffic incidents so that traffic flow may be restored as safely and quickly as possible. **Effective TIM reduces the duration and impacts of traffic incidents; improves the safety of motorists, crash victims, and emergency responders; and reduces the frequency of secondary crashes.**

The goal for the TIM Program is to continuously improve the safety of responders and road users, the reliability of travel, and the efficiency of incident and emergency response through institutionalization of TIM programs. To achieve this goal, the TIM Program focuses on five tracks:

- National Leadership and TIM Organization
- Data and Performance Management
- Research and Development for Technology, Tools, and Practice Innovation
- Training, Education, and Outreach
- Policies, Procedures, and Laws<sup>1</sup>

At its core, TIM is one of the most visible and important elements of traffic management. Because TIM has a direct and measurable impact on every element of everyday life, TIM programs that operate at maximum efficiency offer the public countless direct and indirect benefits.

The following list captures just some of the known benefits of TIM:

- Improved incident detection and response
- Reduced incident clearance times
- Reduced congestion
- Reduced emissions and, thus, improved air quality<sup>1</sup>

Continue to support our local TIM team and remind your agency why TIM is important. Please also kick off 2023 and **invite someone to join us at the next TIM team meeting!**

(1) Traffic Incident Management. U.S Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. Web December 2022. <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/tim/>

Article submitted by Brandy Boccuti, Metric Engineering, Inc.



T I M TEAM WEBSITE!

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

