



104th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

November 2022



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Upcoming Events:

Next TIM Team Meeting
Thursday, **January 12, 2023**
10:00 am

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



Recognition for Our FDOT District One Road Rangers



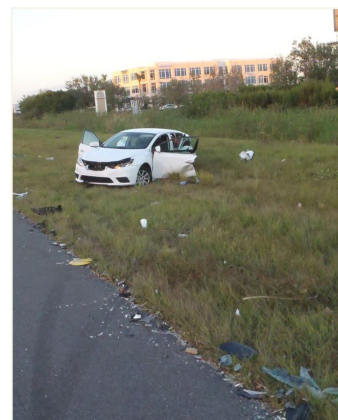
Jason Dawkins has been a District one Road Ranger for over 3 years. Recently he was in a situation that a Road Ranger hopes not to be in. Jason rolled up on the scene of a multi-injury 2-unit crash, Northbound I-75 near State Road 82 shortly after it happened, and quickly and efficiently provided all the pertinent information needed over the radio to the District One Traffic Management Center (TMC). He advised of all lanes being blocked, two vehicles involved, and multiple injuries (including several minors being injured) very shortly after he arrived on scene. This

allowed for a seamless flow of information from the TMC to The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) Dispatch. With this immediate and accurate information from the scene first responders were able to prepare for what they were about to discover at this crash site.

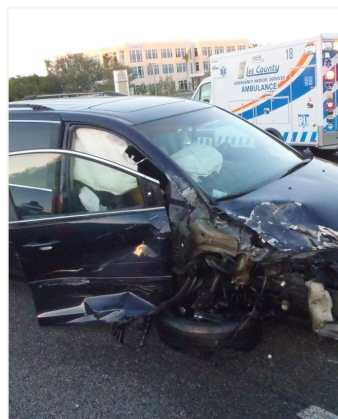
He also remained calm and was helpful to the TMC Dispatcher. When Dispatch had a question, Jason was able to give a direct answer. He updated dispatch routinely as lanes were reopened, responders arrived, and when the crash scene was cleared.

Details of the crash from the FHP press release stated Vehicle 1, white 4 door, was stopped/parked on the outside lane of northbound Interstate 75, south of State Road 82. Vehicle 2, black minivan, was traveling north on the outside lane of Interstate 75, approaching Vehicle 1. Vehicle 2 swerved left in an unsuccessful attempt to avoid a collision. The front right of Vehicle 2 collided with the rear left of Vehicle 1. Vehicle 2 had a total of eleven occupants. Driver 2 and two adult passengers are listed above. Eight children were also in the vehicle, three of which were transported to Gulf Coast Medical Center with minor injuries.

Road Ranger Dawkins was a main driving force making this event a huge success! **Big Kudos to Jason Dawkins.**



Vehicle 1



Vehicle 1

National Holiday Enforcement Campaign

"Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over"

The holiday season between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day is one of the deadliest and most dangerous times on America's roadways due to an increase in impaired driving.

In December there will be a significantly increased enforcement effort combined with aggressive marketing on the annual Drunk Driving crackdown, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. Local law enforcement officers will be out in force in December to January 1, 2023, apprehending all drunk drivers and spreading the message. To learn more, please visit the following website:

<https://ops.fhwa.gov>



Medical Examiner's Role in 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 while protecting the safety of on-scene responders and the traveling public. Any single large incident may have dozens of agencies responding. The major disciplines that form the core constituency may include Law Enforcement, Fire and Rescue, Towing and Recovery, Road Rangers, Hazardous Materials Contractors, Asset Maintenance, and Emergency Medical Services, including specialized Medical Examiners.

A Medical Examiner is a physician that was developed from a coroner concept and is an appointed official. They are a neutral public servant, operating independently from law enforcement and other components of the criminal justice system. In 1970, the State of Florida enacted Florida Statute 406, which establishes a statewide Medical Examiner System of death investigation. The state is divided into [25 Districts](#). The Governor appoints a medical examiner to each district for three-year terms.¹

Florida statutes place certain categories of death under medical examiner jurisdiction. Generally, medical examiners investigate all non-natural deaths within their districts as well as a small number of natural deaths as outlined in the [Florida Statute 406](#).²

Goals/Priorities of a Medical Examiner and TIM Responders:

Similarities

- Safety of those involved, including living victims and all responders.
- Understanding the nature of the crash or incident.
- Preserving/maintaining evidence pertaining to the events.
- Correct identification of all parties, especially deceased victims.

Differences

- Medical Examiner focus is on identifying the deceased such as:
 - Was the individual dead before the crash?
 - How were injuries sustained and which injuries caused death?
 - Was natural disease or intoxication a risk factor?
 - Was the incident an accident or an intentional event?
 - Was equipment failure involved?
 - What are the cause and manner of death



Want to learn more about the Medical Examiners roles during traffic incidents?

Join us at the next TIM Team meeting where we will have the District 12 Chief Medical Examiner, Russell S. Vega, MD, present to the team.

(1) Medical Examiners. Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Web 2022. <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/MEC/MEC-Home.aspx>

(2) Florida Statutes. The Florida Senates. Web 2022. <https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/Chapter406/All>

Article submitted by Brandy Boccuti, Metric Engineering, Inc.

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

