

# TIM TEAM



117th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

January 2025



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## Upcoming Events:

Next TIM Team Meeting  
Thursday, **April 10, 2025**  
**10:00 am**

Polk County Sheriff's Office  
1895 Jim Keene Boulevard  
Winter Haven, FL 33880



## Safer Highways, Safer Year: 2025 Campaigns and Updates

As we welcome the new year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the first responders who tirelessly protect Florida's roadways. Keeping our roadways safe starts with informed and proactive efforts. Together, we can protect lives and make a difference..

### January 2025: Move Over Month



January is Move Over Month, a crucial reminder to protect first responders working along highways. Every year, countless lives are endangered when

drivers fail to move over or slow down near stopped emergency vehicles. This simple action ensures a safer working environment for law enforcement, firefighters, EMS, and tow operators. As we kick off 2025, let's spread awareness and lead by example. Learn more about Florida's Move Over law at [www.flhsmv.gov/MoveOver](http://www.flhsmv.gov/MoveOver).



### Super Bowl LIX Enforcement Campaign: Prioritizing First Responder Safety

The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) and local law enforcement will enforce the Super Bowl LIX impaired driving campaign, "Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk," on February 9, 2025.

As first responders, your safety is paramount during one of the busiest nights of the year. Super Bowl Sunday brings an increase in impaired drivers, creating risks for those working to keep our roads safe. The U.S. Department of Transportation's

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) urges everyone to plan ahead: choose drinking OR driving, but not both.

Encourage your community to designate sober drivers, use rideshare services, or find alternative transportation to prevent impaired driving incidents. Your efforts save lives—both on the road and within your teams.

Sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), this campaign emphasizes the importance of protecting those who protect us. Stay safe and thank you for your service.

Learn more about the campaign and resources here: [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

### FDOT District One Road Ranger Assists

The Road Rangers play a vital role in assisting first responders on the roadways. They collaborate closely with emergency personnel, providing a valuable support system during incidents. Their seamless coordination ensures that the response time is optimized and the overall effectiveness of the emergency response is enhanced, ultimately saving lives and minimizing the impact of incidents on the roadways. Their tireless efforts and unwavering dedication have undoubtedly made a significant impact on improving the safety and efficiency of the Florida's roadways. To view and download the 2024 Annual Road Ranger Assist report, please click on the following link: [Annual Report](#)



**Start the New Year with a Commitment to Traffic Incident Management**

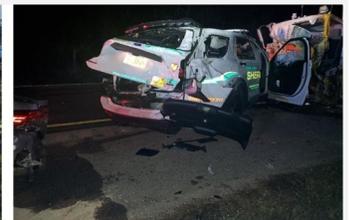
As we welcome the new year, it's time to renew our commitment to the safety of first responders and the traveling public. Recent incidents involving Road Rangers in District One highlight the critical need for Traffic Incident Management (TIM) and ongoing training to keep responders safe on our roadways.

Recently, District One has seen troubling incidents where Road Ranger trucks were struck. On December 21, 2024, a crash on I-75 tragically claimed a life. Fortunately, the deputy and Road Ranger were outside their vehicles and escaped with minor injuries.

On December 30, 2024, another incident occurred on Alligator Alley. While assisting a disabled vehicle, an Road Ranger truck was struck by a car traveling over 70 mph. The Road Ranger's quick thinking saved lives. He instructed passengers to stand behind the guardrail and he had to jump to safety himself. These events emphasize the dangers responders face and the lifesaving importance of proper training and adherence to safety protocols.

SHRP2 Training: Free and Life-Saving

The National First Responder (SHRP2) Training equips responders with the tools and strategies needed to work safely and efficiently at incident scenes. This nationally recognized program focuses on reducing secondary crashes, improving on-scene safety, and enhancing interagency coordination. Best of all, we bring this training directly to local first responder agencies at no cost. Completing this training provides responders with actionable skills, improves safety for all, and strengthens partnerships between responding entities.



Move Over: A Lifesaving Law

January is Move Over Month in Florida, a time to highlight the importance of the "Move Over Law." Recent Road Ranger incidents show why this law is vital to responder safety and underscore the need for public awareness and compliance.

FDOT District One TIM Teams: Collaboration in Action

FDOT District One's TIM Teams are dedicated to fostering responder safety through regular meetings and training. These gatherings allow responders to share insights, discuss incidents, and strengthen collaboration.

A Call to Action

The recent incidents involving Road Rangers are sobering reminders of the dangers first responders face daily. By attending TIM meetings, completing trainings, and promoting awareness of the "Move Over Law," we can enhance safety and reduce risks on our roadways.

**Let's make 2025 a year of action, collaboration, and progress. Take it one step further by inviting just one other responder to join you at a TIM meeting this year.** Together, we can expand awareness, build stronger teams, and ensure that every responder goes home safely at the end of their shift.

If you would like to learn more about the FDOT District One TIM Team meetings or the free National First Responder Training, please contact Brandy Boccuti, TIM Coordinator, at [Brandy.Boccuti@metriceng.com](mailto:Brandy.Boccuti@metriceng.com)

Article submitted by Brandy Boccuti, TIM Coordinator, 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 of 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*

