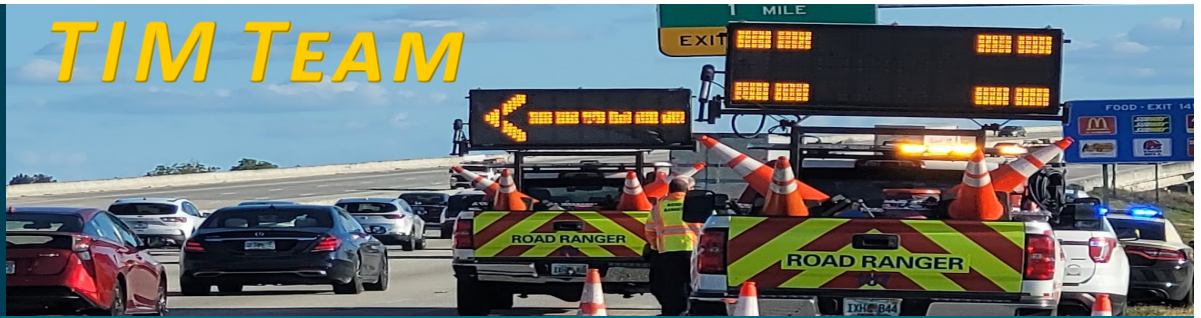




TIM TEAM



114th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

July 2024



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NHTSA Speed Campaign:
Enhancing Road Safety
Through Enforcement 1

Operation Southern Slow
Down 2024: Enhancing Road
Safety for First Responders 1

FDOT District One Road
Ranger Assists 1

Unified Response to South
Florida Flooding Showcases
the Importance of
Communication 2

Upcoming Events:

Next TIM Team Meeting
Thursday, October 10, 2024
10:00 am

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



Accelerating Road Safety: Major Campaigns Targeting Speeding

NHTSA Speed Campaign: Enhancing Road Safety Through Enforcement



From July 10 to 31, 2024, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is launching a comprehensive Speed Campaign across Florida, focusing on reducing speeding-related incidents. This campaign is particularly crucial for first responders, who are often the first on the scene of speed-related crashes. The campaign includes increased law enforcement presence on high-risk roads, utilizing radar and other speed detection technologies to strictly enforce speed limits. Public awareness efforts, such as social media outreach and educational materials, will also play a key role in informing the public about the dangers of speeding and the importance of adhering to speed limits.

For first responders, this campaign is vital in reducing the frequency and severity of traffic incidents, thereby enhancing their safety while on duty. Speeding not only endangers the lives of drivers and passengers but also poses significant risks to emergency personnel working on the roadside. By supporting and actively participating in the NHTSA Speed Campaign, first responders can contribute to creating safer road conditions, ensuring they can perform their duties more effectively and return home safely at the end of each shift. To learn more about the Speed Campaign, please visit: [NHTSA Website](https://www.nhtsa.gov)

Operation Southern Slow Down 2024: Enhancing Road Safety for First Responders

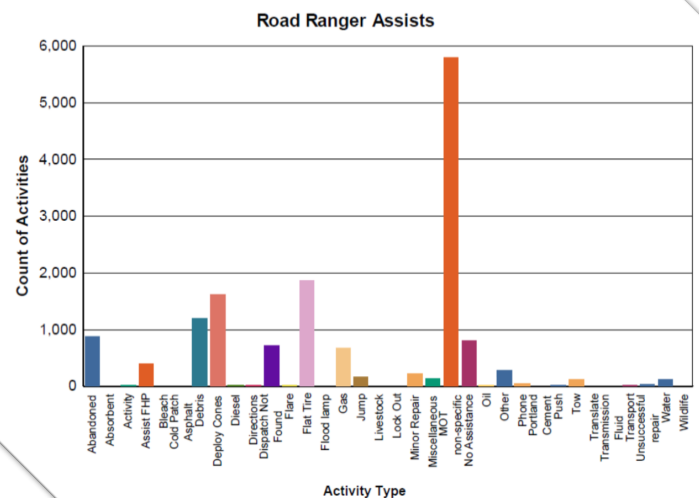


Between July 15 and July 19, 2024, "Operation Southern Slow Down" brought together law enforcement agencies from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina in a concerted effort to address the pervasive issue of speeding on highways. This multi-state initiative, conducted annually for several years, was designed to reduce traffic accidents and fatalities by enforcing speed limits and promoting safer driving behaviors.

The history of Operation Southern Slow Down dates back to 2017 with successful collaborations among these southeastern states. These states recognized the need for a unified approach to tackle the common problem of speeding, which poses significant dangers on their highways. By synchronizing their enforcement efforts, they aimed to create a larger impact and convey a strong message about the importance of adhering to speed limits. learn more, please view the following website: <https://www.fdot.gov/info>

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 tireless efforts and unwavering dedication have undoubtedly made a significant impact on improving the safety and efficiency of the Florida's roadways. Road Rangers assisted in more than 15,212 events during the second quarter of 2024.



Unified Response to South Florida Flooding Showcases the Importance of Communication



South Florida experienced unprecedented flooding from June 11 to June 14, 2024, caused by the weather system known as [Invest 90L](#). Rainfall totals ranged from 6 to 18 inches, with Estero recording the highest amount. This severe weather event put tremendous pressure on first responders and those who coordinated efforts were vital in managing the crisis and ensuring public safety.

Exceptional Efforts by District One Road Rangers

Throughout the flooding, District One Road Rangers demonstrated remarkable dedication. Their response to the crisis was unwavering, even as they faced challenging conditions. During the severe weather conditions, the Road Rangers handled 238 disabled vehicles, 71 crashes, 56 instances of debris on the roadway, 36 abandoned vehicles, and 5 other incidents. Their tireless work, supported by the continuous monitoring of traffic and roadway conditions, was critical in maintaining safety and order on the roads.

Timely Intervention by Traffic Management Center Operators

On June 14, during the peak of the heavy rains, Operators Carre Barraco, Keven Giron, and Jeff Abraham were on duty at the TMC in Fort Myers. Amidst their oversight of several incidents, they noticed a growing hazard as the 143 on-ramp at Southbound I-75 began to flood, causing vehicles to navigate through increasingly deeper water. Recognizing the imminent danger, they promptly contacted DeAngelo Contractor Services, the interstate Asset Maintenance Contractor. Within 30 minutes, DeAngelo's crew arrived and cleared the scuppers, swiftly alleviating the flooding and preventing potential accidents and injuries. This rapid response exemplified the critical importance of teamwork and communication in managing road safety during emergencies.

The Importance of Coordinated Efforts

The events during Invest 90L highlight the indispensable role of coordinated efforts among different teams. The dedication of the Road Rangers, combined with the proactive measures taken by TMC Operators and DeAngelo Contractor Services, underscores how effective collaboration can mitigate risks and enhance public safety. Seamless communication and swift responses were key in addressing the challenges posed by the severe weather.

Enhance Preparedness by Attending the District One TIM Team Meetings

To build on these successful efforts, it is essential for all first responders to engage in the District One TIM Team meetings. These meetings are vital for sharing experiences, discussing best practices, and strengthening inter-agency communication. By participating in TIM team meetings, first responders can enhance their communication and establish relationships that are crucial for effectively managing incidents when events like these occur. Staying updated on the latest strategies and resources allows them to better prepare for and respond to extreme weather events and other emergencies.

In conclusion, the collaborative efforts during the Invest 90L flooding demonstrate the essential role of traffic incident management in ensuring both first responder and public safety. We urge all first responders to participate in TIM Team meetings to foster better communication and preparedness for future emergencies.

Article submitted by Tom Arsenault, TIM Program Manager and Brandy Boccuti, TIM Coordinator, 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 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

