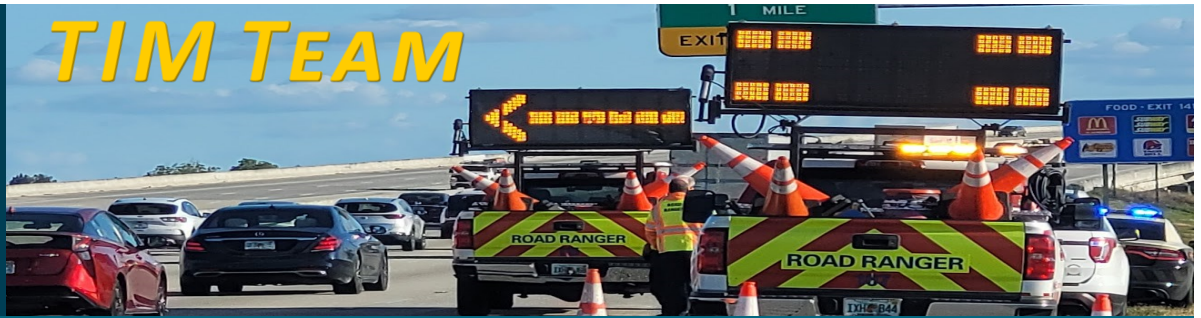




# TIM TEAM



108th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

July 2023



## Recognition for Our FDOT District One Road Rangers

### Recognition for District One Road Ranger



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." The Florida Department of Transportation and the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) team would like to recognize the following FDOT District One Road Ranger for their service.

On Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 11:48 pm, Road Ranger Yosvanys Hernandez Garcia was patrolling his zone on Alligator Alley, northbound, around the 80 Mile Marker when he noticed headlights coming

at him the wrong way. The vehicle was southbound in the left northbound lanes. Road Ranger Garcia immediately activated his emergency overhead lights to notify the traffic behind him. He was able to get the traffic to stop and intercept the Wrong Way Driver (WWD), between the off-ramp and on-ramp for Exit 80. He spoke with them quickly and was able to get them to pull off to the shoulder. It was a young driver with her parents in the backseat. After talking to the driver, he was assessed that no drugs or alcohol were involved. They informed him they were heading to Ave Maria from Miami and had just missed the exit. (Exit 80). He was able to safely get them turned around and headed to Naples in the correct direction. Road Ranger Garcia also advised them that it was highly dangerous and illegal to turn around anywhere while on the interstate.

#### 2023 Quarter 1 Road Ranger Assist

Abandoned Vehicles	996
Brush Fire	1
Crash	909
Debris on Roadway	1,522
Disabled Vehicles	5,446
Emergency Vehicles	18
Other	7
Pedestrian	6
Police Activity	10
Road Work (Scheduled)	2
Vehicle Fire	24
Visibility	1
Wildfire	12
Wildlife	17
Total	8,971

### 2023 Road Ranger Assist

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. By swiftly managing traffic flow, clearing debris, and providing essential resources, the Road Rangers help create a safer environment for first responders to carry out their crucial duties efficiently. 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. See the graph to the right which provides the 2023 Quarterly One Road Ranger Statistics.



### 2023 Operation Southern Slow Down

The purpose of this multi-jurisdictional campaign is to increase enforcement from July 17th to July 23rd to reduce speeding across the Southeast. Participating states include Georgia, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina and Tennessee from Region 4 of the National Highway Traffic Safety

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#### Upcoming Events:

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

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



## FDOT District One Sets All-time High for Rapid Incident Scene Clearance Events

The Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) Program is an innovative initiative supporting Florida's Open Roads Policy objective of clearing major highway incidents and truck crashes safely within 90 minutes. The policy helps increase the safety of our first responders by decreasing the amount of time a first responder is on the side of the highway while working an incident. For every minute that a lane is blocked on a major highway, there is a four-mile traffic delay. Additionally, up to 27 responders arrive at a new incident every minute which equals 1,620 responders working traffic incidents every hour.<sup>1</sup>

The Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) Program is a service provided by the Florida Department of Transportation to manage and remove large-scale crashes from our state highway system. It is an innovative and incentive-based program that is working to keep our highways free and clear of road-blocking events and maintain safety.

The RISC activation incident criteria is limited access freeways or ramps, rollover blocking lanes, lost load affecting lanes, truck fire with significant damage, large vehicle with infrastructure damage.

RISC Program Requirements:

- Two minimum rated 50 and 50/35 ton wreckers (one must be a rotator)
- Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) Support Vehicle
- Traffic control and added equipment

In Fiscal Year 2023, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One achieved a significant milestone with an all-time high of fifty-six (56) RISC events, surpassing the previous record of thirty-five (35) events in Fiscal Year 2021. The District One RISC Program covers Interstate I-75 from Mile Marker 49, known as Alligator Alley, to Mile Marker 224 in Manatee County.

To enhance response times in Sarasota County, Talon Towing, located in North Port, Florida, was recently added as a new vendor to the RISC Program. Their inclusion has contributed to reduced response times in the area, benefiting the overall efficiency of the program.

"The increase of RISC numbers for District One is a result of a collaboration between the Florida Highway Patrol and the District working together at TIM Meetings. This collaboration increases the education of our Troopers, who arrive at crash scenes, to utilize RISC to promote our goal of quickly opening our interstate highways," said Captain Jeffrey VanArsdale, North District Florida Highway Patrol Commander Troop F.

The program has been recognized by FDOT Staff as well.

"The District One TIM Program has witnessed an increase of RISC Events due to the efforts of our FDOT Staff and the TIM Program education and awareness of what constitutes a RISC event," said Steven Davis FDOT District One Interim District Traffic Operations Engineer.



(1) FDOT Open Roads Policy: Quick Clearance for Safety and Mobility. Florida DOT. National Operations Center of Excellence. Web 6.2023. <https://transportationops.org/publications/florida-dot-open-roads-policy-quick-clearance-safety-and-mobility>

Article submitted by Tom Arsenault, TIM / RISC Program Manager, 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*

