



# TIM TEAM



107th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

May 2023



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## National First Responder (SHRP2) Training in District One

On April 27, 2023, our FDOT District One TIM Program Manager, Tom Arsenault, successfully trained over (35) first responder in Sebring, Florida, in our Heartland TIM team area for the National Traffic Incident Management (SHRP-2) Responder Training Program. The training was developed *BY RESPONDERS - FOR RESPONDERS*, with the national objective that responders acquire a common set of core competencies that promote a shared understanding of the requirements for achieving the safety of responders and motorists, quick response, and effective communications at traffic incident scenes. The training has been *a great success for our first responders in District One*. The training is also being offered on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, in Fort Myers, Florida at the SWIFT SunGuide Center and after just three days of the announcement the training room completely sold out! If you or someone in your agency are interested in the training, please contact Brandy Boccuti, TIM Coordinator, at [bboccuti@metriceng.com](mailto:bboccuti@metriceng.com).



## A Special Thank You to our District Twelve Medical Examiner

We would like to give a special thank you to Chief Medical Examiner, Russell S. Vega, MD, for his well received presentation on the *Medical Examiner's Role in Traffic Incident Management* at our recent TIM team meetings. Dr. Vega's message to the first responders attending the meeting is the importance of communication and that the goal of the Medical Examiner is to work with the corresponding first responders to safely and quickly complete the required task on scene in order to open the roadway.



## Rapid Incident Scene Clearance Performance Measures

RISC, Florida Department of Transportation District One's program for heavy-duty towing and recovery **Rapid Incident Scene Clearance**, is a critical component of Traffic Incident Management. RISC helps meet Florida's Open Roads Policy goal of clearing the roadway of large vehicle crashes in 90 minutes or less. Now a statewide incentive-based program and a nationwide model, RISC pays monetary bonuses to qualified participating tow companies for meeting stated quick clearance goals. The Figure to the right provides a snapshot of the performance measures and the success of District One's RISC program over the last couple years.

## FDOT District 1 Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) Program



Note, these numbers are in minutes and in annual average numbers

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## 2023 Hurricane Preparedness/Emergency Shoulder Use

To kick off the 2023 Hurricane Season, which runs from June 1st through November 30th, we will have a guest speaker presenting at the next Traffic Incident Management (TIM) team meeting on Emergency Shoulder Use (ESU) Plans and Hurricane Preparedness.

The Colorado State University tropical meteorology project team predicts a slightly below normal hurricane season. But experts have already noted this season comes with a high level of uncertainty based on a developing El Niño and an unusually warm Atlantic Basin. The team forecast thirteen named storms, including six hurricanes, two of which will be major hurricanes.<sup>1</sup>

During a hurricane evacuation, ESU is authorized to help expedite the evacuation process. ESU in Florida is authorized by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and local law enforcement agencies. During an evacuation, FDOT will determine if emergency shoulder use is necessary based on traffic flow and congestion.

ESU is Florida's innovative strategy to temporarily increase traffic flow and capacity during major hurricane evacuations using existing paved shoulders. First developed in 2017 and covering key corridors within the state, ESU replaced the former one-way plans, also known as contraflow and lane reversal.

When ESU is operational, all motorists except large trucks, buses, and trailers may use the shoulder as a travel lane. Motorists may enter and exit the shoulder at designated locations where law enforcement officers and posted signage indicate. ESU uses the left or inside shoulder on six-lane roadways, while the right or outside shoulder is used on four-lane roadways.<sup>2</sup>

ESU routes, concept plans, and standard operating procedures are reviewed annually. For the 2023 season, there are ESU plans for nine segments on seven roadways:

**Interstate 4:** Eastbound from US 41 in Tampa (Hillsborough) to SR 417 in Celebration (Osceola)

**Interstate 10:** Westbound from US 301 in Jacksonville (Duval) to US 319 in Tallahassee (Leon)

**Interstate 75:** Northbound from SR 951 in Naples (Collier) to SR 143 in Jennings (Hamilton)

**Interstate 75 Alligator Alley:** Northbound from US 27 in Weston (Broward) to SR 951 in Naples (Collier), and Southbound from SR 951 in Naples (Collier) to US 27 in Weston (Broward)

**Interstate 95:** Northbound from SR 706 in Jupiter (Palm Beach) to south of Interstate 295 in Jacksonville (Duval)

**Florida's Turnpike:** Northbound from south of Hypoluxo Road in Boynton Beach (Palm Beach) to Osceola Parkway in Kissimmee (Osceola), and Northbound from SR 50 in Winter Garden (Orange) to US 301 or Interstate 75 in Wildwood (Sumter)

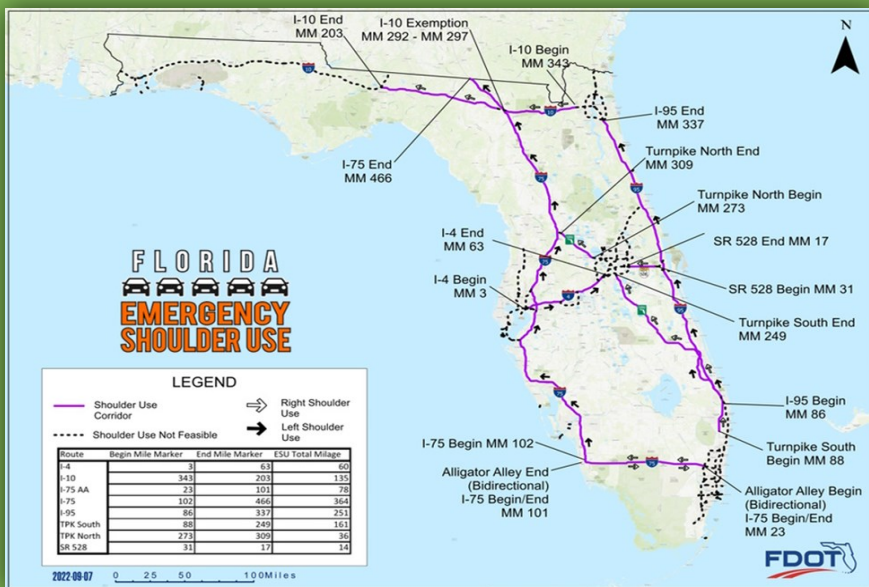
**State Road 528:** Westbound from SR 520 near Tosohatchee (Orange) to east of SR 417 in Orlando (Orange)<sup>2</sup>

Hurricane season can be a dangerous time of year, and it is critical to be prepared for the worst. Be prepared for the 2023 Hurricane season and **attend the next TIM Team meeting where you will learn about this year's Florida ESU plans and hurricane preparedness.**

(1) 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season. The Weather Channel.. Web April 13, 2023. <https://weather.com/storms/hurricane/news/2023-04-11-hurricane-season-outlook-atlantic>

(2) Emergency Shoulder Use. Florida Department of Transportation. Web January 2023, <https://www.fdot.gov/emergencymanagement/esu/>

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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

