



TIM TEAM



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Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

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Upcoming Events:

Next TIM Team Meeting
Thursday, January 9, 2025
10:00 am

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



TIM Team Champions: Leading the Way in Traffic Incident Management

Our TIM Team Champions are the dedicated individuals who go above and beyond to keep our roadways safe and efficient. Each of them brings unique blend of skills, experience, and a strong dedication that strengthens our Traffic Incident Management (TIM) initiatives and supports our first responder community. We're proud to introduce and highlight both new members and longtime supporters, each committed to advancing roadway safety and building stronger connections within our first responder community.

Meet Beau Baggett: District One's New Assistant TIM Program Manager and Champion

We are excited to welcome Beau Baggett as our new Assistant TIM Program Manager for FDOT District One. Beau joins us with an impressive background in public safety, having served 22 years with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office in Colorado, where he focused on traffic safety and impaired driving enforcement. His extensive experience on the front lines, working in detentions, patrol, narcotics, and traffic gives him unique insight into the challenges first responders face on our roadways.

In his new role, Beau will support District One TIM Program Manager, Tom Arsenault, in strengthening our TIM initiatives in the Sarasota-Manatee and Polk County area. As a former motor officer and Accident Reconstructionist (THI), Beau has the skills and commitment needed to make a difference. Beau's journey reflects the spirit of a TIM Team Champion.

Alongside his professional expertise, he is a Navy veteran originally from Nashville, Tennessee, who enjoys scuba diving and motorcycling. He and his wife, Susan, are avid Disney fans and are excited to be back in Florida. We're thrilled to have him on board as we continue to advance the TIM Program, and we look forward to seeing his impact on our District and the first responder community.

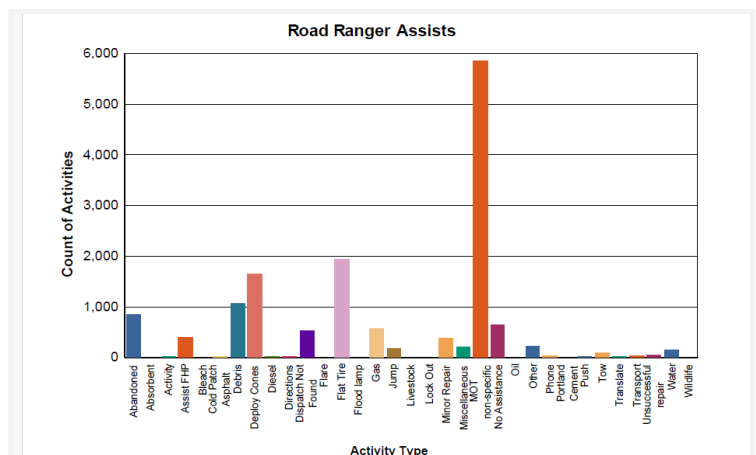


Celebrating TIM Champions: Honoring Dedication to Safety and Service

As part of our TIM Champion theme, we are proud to recognize the exceptional dedication of two individuals whose contributions have been vital to the success of the District One Traffic TIM Team. Subin Idikula (Left), ITS Maintenance Project Manager/FMS-AMS Specialist IV with FDOT District One, alongside Ray Mikol (Right), RTMC Assistant Manager with HNTB, were recently honored with plaques presented by Tom Arsenault, FDOT District One TIM Program Manager.

FDOT District One Road Ranger

As key members of our TIM Team, the Road Rangers play a vital role in assisting first responders on the roadways. Their tireless efforts and unwavering dedication have undoubtedly made a significant impact on improving the safety and efficiency of Florida's roadways. In Quarter 3 of 2024, the **Road Rangers assisted in over 14,981 events**, demonstrating their commitment to supporting responders and keeping our highways safe.



Keeping Highways Safe During Wildfires: A TIM Approach

Wildfires present significant challenges for first responders, especially those operating along busy highways. When flames reach roadways, the dangers multiply. These situations demand a coordinated approach to protect both the traveling public and the first responders working close to traffic and fire hazards.

One of the greatest hazards in wildfire conditions is reduced visibility due to smoke and fog. As visibility decreases, the risks for first responders and the public increase sharply. In these conditions, setting up traffic control measures becomes essential to help prevent accidents and keep traffic moving safely. Smoke adds even more challenges for responders who must work in unpredictable conditions with low visibility and the constant threat of fast moving traffic.

Ensuring safety during wildfire related incidents requires proactive planning and coordination. Equipping emergency vehicles with traffic control tools, like cones, high-visibility signs, and warning lights, is essential. When placed correctly, these elements alert drivers to fire operations ahead and give responders a safer work zone.

Using cones and temporary signs to mark danger zones helps steer traffic away from active areas, increasing safety for responders. Placing these signs further upstream gives drivers advance notice, creating a safer workspace for everyone on-site. Wearing high-visibility gear is also crucial, as it ensures responders can be seen clearly even in smoky, low visibility conditions typical of wildfire situations.

Managing wildfires on roadways demands strong collaboration across various agencies, with coordinated responses essential to keeping both responders and the public safe. Building relationships by attending District One TIM Team meetings helps strengthen connections among local law enforcement, fire departments, EMS, forestry services, and transportation agencies, all of whom play vital roles in traffic incident management.



Through ongoing collaboration, first responder agencies review strategies, share essential information, and streamline communication, creating a unified approach to wildfire response. This teamwork ensures that everyone involved is well prepared for sudden events, such as those involving heavy smoke or fog.

A unified response plan enables quicker adjustments to traffic control measures as fire conditions change. The unpredictable nature of wildfires often limits access to certain areas and first responders must adapt quickly to the ever changing visibility and fire conditions. Mobile traffic units and flexible traffic protocols are critical in these cases, allowing responders to redirect traffic based on current visibility and fire conditions.

Wildfires may be unpredictable, but with coordinated traffic incident management, first responders can manage these challenges and help keep the highways safer during emergencies. Attending the next TIM Team meeting and strengthening connections among agencies will help ensure everyone is prepared and protocols are reviewed before incidents occur.

For more resources on managing traffic incidents during wildfires, please visit [Respondersafety.com](https://respondersafety.com). The site offers free training modules on a range of TIM topics, providing invaluable insights and strategies to enhance safety and coordination for first responders.

(1) Wildland Fires and Traffic Management. Responder Safety Network. Web 11.2024. <https://aaafoundation.org/fatal-wrong-way-crashes-on-divided-highways/>.

Article submitted by 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

