



121st Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

September 2025



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**TIM Training in Action:
Ensuring No Responder is Left
Behind** 1

**Guest Presentation: Fatal
Crash Prosecution and
Lessons for Responders** 1

**FDOT District One Road
Ranger Assists** 1

**Safety is a Shared Mission:
Crash Responder Safety Week 2
and the Role of TIM Teams
and Training**

Upcoming Events:

Next TIM Team Meeting
Thursday, October 16, 2025
10:00 am

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



Safety Starts with Us: Training, Teamwork, and the Power of Preparedness

As we prepare for Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) this November, we are reminded that safety on our roadways is a shared responsibility. Now is the time to prepare. In this edition, we highlight training initiatives, upcoming events, and outreach efforts that continue to strengthen our District One Traffic Incident Management (TIM) program, one responder, one team, and one incident at a time.

TIM Training in Action: Ensuring No Responder is Left Behind

FDOT District One continues to make significant strides in TIM training, led by TIM Program Manager Tom Arsenault. Through his delivery of the National First Responder (SHRP2) Training, Tom has trained 344 first responders across the district, including law enforcement, fire, tow, EMS, DOT, and other agency personnel.

More than 340 responders trained under one program marks a major milestone in strengthening coordination and safety across District One.

Reaching Bartow and Manatee Operations Crews

The outreach initiative began on July 13, 2023, when the Bartow Maintenance Operations team received their first session, with 13 responders trained. Tom later returned on June 3, 2025 to complete training for the remainder of the

Bartow team, ensuring that every crew member was fully engaged in TIM protocols. On August 26, 2025, similar training was provided to the Manatee Maintenance Operations crews, further expanding the program's reach and ensuring consistency across multiple counties.

With Beau Baggett, Assistant TIM Program Manager, being brought on to help support Tom Arsenault in their championing of TIM initiatives, the outreach to Maintenance Operations crews has ensured that every responder was reached and no one was left behind, bringing entire crews into the program and strengthening TIM readiness across the District.

Connecting Training to Real-World TIM

To reinforce these efforts, on August 13, 2025, Bartow Maintenance Operations responders were invited to the FDOT District One Collier Lee Charlotte TIM Team Meeting in Fort Myers at the SWIFT SunGuide Traffic Management Center. This opportunity allowed them to participate in discussions on TIM best practices, contribute to After Action Reviews of major incidents, and tour the TMC to gain a firsthand look at how traffic operations are managed.

The combination of structured training and real-world exposure is helping to ensure that responders are not only learning TIM principles, but also seeing how those principles are applied in the field. Together, these initiatives are strengthening safety, efficiency, and collaboration for all who respond to incidents on Florida's roadways.

If your agency is interested in hosting the four-hour National First Responder (SHRP2) Training, please contact Brandy Boccuti, TIM Coordinator, at bboccuti@metriceng.com



Guest Presentation: Fatal Crash Prosecution and Lessons for Responders

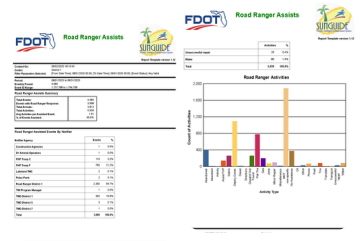


On Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the District One Heartland TIM Team welcomes a powerful guest speaker during its [virtual meeting](#). Mr. Martin Stark, State Attorney for Florida's 20th Judicial Circuit, will present a compelling case study based on a fatal hit-and-run incident involving a 15-year-old victim.

Mr. Stark will share the same closing arguments and courtroom presentation he used to secure a conviction in the 2023 case, offering a rare behind-the-scenes look at the legal process following traffic fatalities. This is a must-attend opportunity for anyone involved in crash response. A recording of the presentation will be used as a training resource at upcoming TIM Team Meetings across District One.

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. To view and download the 2025 August Road Ranger Assist report, please click on the following link: [Report](#)



Safety is a Shared Mission: Crash Responder Safety Week and the Role of TIM Teams and Training



Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) will be observed this year from November 17 to 21, 2025, with the national theme “*Responders Ahead! Reduce Your Speed As You Proceed.*” The campaign serves as a call to action to protect those who serve on the front lines of roadway incidents. With CRSW fast approaching, it's time to start preparing.

For the District One TIM Team this means coordinating outreach, promoting participation in TIM meetings, and encouraging first responder agencies to complete the National First Responder (SHRP2) Training.

First Responders are urged to begin integrating this year's theme into internal and public messaging, social media, and community engagement.

CRSW highlights the serious risks faced by law enforcement, fire rescue, EMS, tow operators, and anyone who works along the highways. These responders are struck and injured or killed too often despite existing Move Over laws.

Outreach might include press events, social campaigns, or awareness trainings. Press release templates, campaign toolkits, social media kits and other marketing items can be downloaded from the National Operations Center of Excellence website at: <https://www.transportationops.org/TIM/CRSW>

Training That Saves Lives

Crash Responder Safety Week is an ideal time to promote more than just awareness. It is a time to invest in preparation. One of the most impactful ways to do that is by ensuring responders have completed the National TIM Responder (SHRP2) Training. This four-hour, instructor-led course introduces critical strategies for traffic incident scene safety, quick clearance, inter-agency coordination, and responder protection.

The training also includes a hands-on tabletop exercise that simulates a crash scenario, allowing responders to apply the concepts in a controlled but realistic setting.

What makes this training effective is not just the curriculum, but the leadership behind it. In District One, Tom Arsenault and Beau Baggett continue to expand access to first responders by working directly with agencies throughout the region.

TIM Team Meetings: Learn, Connect, Engage

Another key opportunity for preparation lies in regular participation at District One TIM Team Meetings. These meetings serve as a forum for discussing real incident case studies, sharing lessons learned, and reviewing performance during After Action Reviews.

By attending these meetings first responders are not only gaining valuable operational insight but also building meaningful relationships with other agencies they will encounter while working along the roadway. Each bring unique roles to a crash scene, and knowing how one another operates can make a critical difference when seconds matter.

These connections improve coordination, reduce confusion, and most importantly, enhance safety for everyone working on the roadside. Consistent involvement in TIM Team Meetings helps create a unified response where everyone from dispatch to scene command has a shared understanding of protocols and expectations. The result is safer scenes, quicker clearance times, and a stronger sense of partnership across jurisdictions.

A Shared Responsibility

Responder safety is a responsibility we all share. District One's TIM Program is committed to fostering a culture of safety, respect, and collaboration, but it takes every agency working together to make a lasting impact. By engaging in training, strengthening partnerships through TIM Team Meetings, and promoting roadway safety messages, we can protect those who protect us and build safer highways for everyone.



CRASH RESPONDER SAFETY WEEK
Responders Ahead!
REDUCE YOUR SPEED AS YOU PROCEED

Article submitted by Brandy Boccuti, TIM Coordinator, Metric Engineering, Inc.

TIM TEAM WEBSITE!

www.swfltim.org

The Polk County TIM Team is committed to implementing the Quick Clearance principles of the Open Roads Policy of Florida 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.

