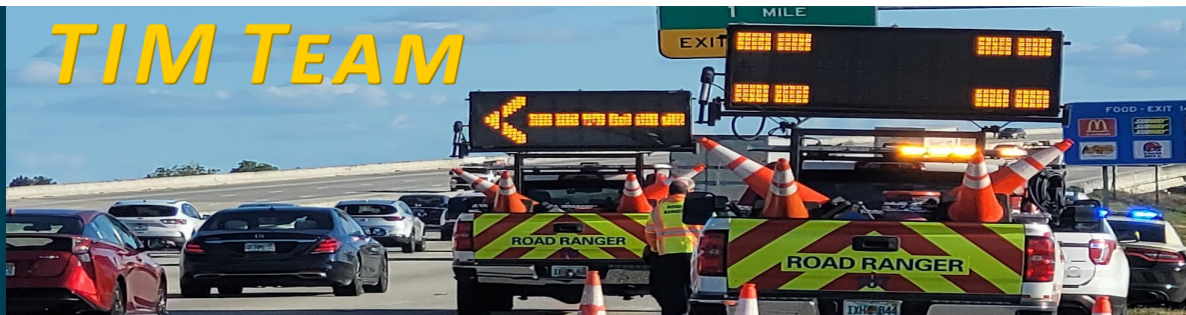




TIM TEAM



109th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

September 2023



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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



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 Wednesday, September 6, 2023, Road Ranger James Marlin responded to a debris call just before Exit 213 northbound. A significant amount of debris had scattered across lanes 1, 2, and 3, completely obstructing lane 2 during rush hour. Upon his arrival at the scene, Road Ranger Marlin encountered approximately a mile of backed-up traffic due to the debris. While he was aware that another Road Ranger and the Florida Highway Patrol were enroute to provide assistance, Road Ranger Marlin proactively initiated the setup of Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) measures to block both lanes 1 and 2. Without hesitation, he immediately commenced debris removal.

These are the perilous situations that our dedicated Road Rangers often confront, and their efforts frequently go unrecognized. Thanks to Road Ranger Marlin's swift actions, the lanes were efficiently cleared during rush hour, ensuring the shortest possible disruption to traffic flow.

2023 Crash Responder Safety Week



The Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) initiative, recognizing all traffic incident management (TIM) response communities, will take place this year from November 13-17, 2023.

The week affords a unique opportunity for every Traffic Incident Management (TIM) community to make a difference individually and jointly for roadway safety during traffic incidents. TIM communities across the nation come together this week by teaching each other and the motoring public about our common goal and responsibility for safe, quick roadway clearance. To learn more, please visit the following website: <https://ops.fhwa.gov>

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. 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 Two Road Ranger Assist Statistics.

2023 Quarter 2 Road Ranger Assist

Abandoned Vehicles	1,077
Brush Fire	1
Congestion	1
Crash	827
Debris on Roadway	1,333
Disabled Vehicles	5,742
Emergency Vehicles	21
Interagency Coordination	1
Other	7
Pedestrian	4
Police Activity	13
Vehicle Fire	18
Wildfire	6
Wildlife	17
Total	9,068

The Vital Role and Responsibility of Medical Flight During Traffic Incidents

In our most recent round of Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team meetings, we had the privilege of hosting a guest speaker from [Air Methods Corporation](#). This informative session provided a unique opportunity to delve into the critical role and support that Air Methods and similar organizations offer during traffic incidents.

When traffic incidents occur, they can result in severe injuries and life-threatening emergencies. In such critical situations, the role of Medical Flight services becomes indispensable. Especially during traffic incidents and how they assist first responders on the ground in clearing incident scenes.

Medical Flight teams, consisting of highly trained medical professionals and pilots, are tasked with providing rapid and specialized care to those in need. Medical Flight teams are on standby 24/7, ready to respond to emergencies at a moment's notice. In the event of a traffic incident involving serious injuries, their rapid response time can mean the difference between life and death. Helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft equipped with advanced medical equipment allow them to reach accident scenes swiftly, even in remote or hard-to-reach areas.¹

Upon arrival at the scene, Medical Flight professionals assess the injured individuals and begin immediate medical intervention. They are trained to stabilize patients, administer life-saving treatments, and make critical decisions regarding the appropriate level of care needed. These professionals can provide advanced medical care that often surpasses what can be administered in an ambulance, significantly increasing the chances of survival for the injured.

Medical Flight's responsibilities extend beyond the accident scene. Once patients are stabilized, they are carefully transported to specialized medical facilities such as trauma centers, burn units, or hospitals equipped to handle their specific injuries. The speed and efficiency of Med Flight services ensure that patients receive the most appropriate care without delay, which is especially vital in cases of severe trauma.

Medical Flight teams also collaborate closely with first responders and other emergency services at the incident scene, providing valuable assistance in scene management. They help coordinate the safe landing of aircraft, ensure the scene is secure, and provide essential information to ground crews. Their expertise in traffic incident scene management contributes to a more organized and effective response.

Medical Flight teams understand the challenges that first responders on the ground face when dealing with traffic incidents. They can provide crucial support by transporting seriously injured individuals to hospitals, freeing up ground ambulances to focus on less critical patients. This collaboration allows first responders to allocate their resources more efficiently and clear the incident scene faster.

Medical Flight teams play a vital role in responding to traffic incidents and providing critical care to those in need. Their rapid response, advanced medical expertise, and ability to transport patients to specialized facilities make them an essential component of the emergency response system.

(1) EMS Air Medical Transport. National Library of Medicine. Web 6.26..2023. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK482358/>

Article submitted by Brandy Boccuti, Traffic Incident Management 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 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

