

RESPONDER



After the storm passed, the Regional Transportation Management Center dispatched inspection teams to Volusia, Lake, and Sumter counties to check district traffic management devices and FDOT equipment for storm damage.

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FLORIDA TIM RESPONDER

PROGRAM MANAGER UPDATE



Greetings Traffic Incident Management (TIM) professionals,

Welcome to the third edition of the Florida TIM Responder, Florida's Statewide TIM Program newsletter, for the 2023 calendar year. Our goal is to provide you with relevant and timely information that will collectively help us advance the TIM state of practice throughout Florida. It is also expected that the TIM Responder newsletter will increase awareness of TIM and promote its benefits. The newsletter will focus primarily on the current state of the practice, articles from peers and partner first responder agencies, technology updates, national TIM updates, upcoming events, and awards/recognition.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) continues to advance the statewide TIM Strategic Plan adopted in January 2019. At its core, the Strategic Plan is designed to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, and ensure that stakeholders and TIM Program partners are working toward common goals supporting Florida's Open Roads Policy. As part of its commitment to creating a safer transportation system for motorists and incident response agencies, the FDOT Central Office TIM team has begun the process of updating the plan to set forth new goals for the next three to five years.

TIM Program Managers from each of FDOT's seven Districts and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise participated in the first quarterly meeting of fiscal year 2023-2024. The meeting was hosted by the FDOT Central Office TIM section on August 10, 2023. The meeting provided an update on the Road Ranger Safety Initiatives Implementation Plan, discussed the new Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) procedure and program funding, informed the Districts of the Road Ranger Tactical Training and Refresher course, and discussed strategies for the upcoming Crash Responder Safety Week. The meeting also gave each of the Districts an opportunity to present on the activities and successes of their respective programs.

This issue received some outstanding articles from the Districts on their accomplishments and takeaways from this past quarter. District One celebrates a new record for RISC events in one year, surpassing their previous record of 35 to 56! District Five explains the 15-day TIM response to the extensive Juniper Prairie wildfire and the impact to SR 19 as well as their success in delivering a Live National TIM Responder Training. District Six held a press conference in conjunction with their transportation partners in the Florida Highway Patrol,

Bike 305, and others to share safety tips for the summer travel season. Lastly, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise participated in the cutting-edge Drone Response Team (DRT) training and testing at Florida's Suntrax Facility.

This past quarter, Florida experienced the impact of Hurricane Idalia, and transportation professionals from across the state mobilized to assist in hurricane preparation, evacuations, and recovery efforts. Districts Two and Five, and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise graciously provided some examples of their experience in Hurricane response activities to include in this issue of the Florida TIM Responder.

In closing, it warrants emphasizing that a multiagency, multi-disciplined team effort is critical to the success of TIM. As such, we always value your input and would like to extend an open invitation to you to send us TIM Responder newsletter ideas and comments, as well as articles and announcements you'd like to share.

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to the TIM Program for the State of Florida. Together, we have responded to the needs of motorists while making every effort to create a safer working environment for our responder community. The team has risen to the challenge and continues to provide excellent service. Thank you for all that you do and please continue to be safe.

SHAWN KINNEY

Traffic Incident Management

VISION

To increase the delivery rate of fatality-free and congestion-free transportation systems supporting the FDOT vision and Florida Transportation Plan goals.

MISSION

To identify, prioritize, develop, implement, operate, maintain, and update TSM&O program strategies and measure their effectiveness for improved safety and mobility. The delivery rate of fatality-free and congestion-free transportation systems supporting the FDOT vision and Florida Transportation Plan goals.

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<https://www.fdot.gov/traffic/default.shtm>

MEET JEFF FROST TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



My name is Jeff Frost, I have been with the Florida Department of Transportation for over 20 years and over seven years as the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) & Commercial Vehicle Operations (CVO) Manager. A few of my responsibilities include:

- » Working alongside Marie Tucker; CVO manger, to improve the safe and efficient movement of commercial vehicles on the state and national highway system by collaborating with our industry partners and participating in Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Innovative Technology Deployment (ITD) program.
- » Working alongside Shawn Kinney; TIM Manager, to reduce traffic-related fatalities and congestion on the State's roadways through the Road Ranger Service Patrol (RRSP) Program and Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) Program.
- » Serving as the Chairman of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Review Board to review all protests for commercial vehicle citations in the State of Florida.

Prior to joining the TIM/CVO team in 2015, I worked in commercial vehicle enforcement (CVE) for over 20 years. I was an Officer, Sergeant, and Lieutenant for FDOT's Office of Motor Carrier Compliance for 16 years until the merger with FHP in 2011. I joined FHP as a Lieutenant in 2011 and worked there for another four years before joining the FDOT TIM/CVO team in 2015.

I look forward to bringing our readers more commercial vehicle related news and updates.

Jeff Frost

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) & Commercial Vehicle Operations (CVO) Program Manager

HURRICANE IDALIA PREPARATION AND RECOVERY

DISTRICT FIVE DELIVERS ROUND-THE-CLOCK SUPPORT

Article supplied by District Five Incident Management staff

Leading up to Hurricane Idalia's Aug. 30 landfall, preparations were already well underway at the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) for District Five to ensure traffic management equipment and emergency response personnel were ready.

Emergency backup systems at the RTMC were cycled and checked for optimal performance, while technologies such as a satellite trailer with remote drone operations capability, work zone trailers, and digital message signs were prepped for deployment. These technologies bring an added element of safety to the personnel responsible for emergency response by giving them the ability to share messaging and capture visual data without having to station someone out in the field.



TSM&O Construction Project Manager Daniel Simpson (l) and Purchasing Agent Jennifer Sardonini (r) take a traffic signal inspection route in Sumter County.

Pictured after Idalia's landfall are Eddie Grant (l), RTMC Manager, and Jeremy Dilmore (r), District Five TSM&O Program Engineer.

On Aug. 29, operators settled in for a long storm-watch night at the RTMC, which serves as the nerve center for monitoring regional traffic throughout the district. While the storm was expected to make landfall around the Big Bend of Florida (the area where the panhandle curves down towards the rest of the state), operators and emergency personnel know from experience that even without a direct hit, driving wind and heavy rain can have major impacts on Central Florida roadways. Staffing levels were at their highest, with leadership and operators pulling extended hours.

Throughout the evening and into the following day, the Traffic Incident Management team monitored interstate and arterial traffic, dispatching Road Rangers for incident and debris clearance and coordinating with Florida Highway Patrol on traffic management. RTMC operators also utilized FL511 to monitor and track progression of any storm-related closures, and they relied on an emergency management platform called WebEOC to help organize and maintain an operating picture.

Lessons learned from this storm and an event debrief will help the entire team gauge what went well in District Five's preparation and response and what areas can be improved before the next major storm approaches the state. Just as Hurricane Ian last year and storms in previous years have helped FDOT better prepare for future emergency management, the response to Hurricane Idalia will help FDOT ensure its goal of keeping roadways safe for all motorists in the future.

DISTRICT FIVE'S I-75

IDALIA STORM PREP & RESPONSE

By Sheryl Bradley, I-75 Incident Corridor Management Project Manager (AECOM)

During the week of August 21, our I-75 Incident Corridor Management corridor group began actively watching what was then a strengthening depression, Invest 93L, which would grow to Tropical Storm Idalia by later that week. While the team enjoyed a restful weekend in anticipation of the week ahead, Idalia stalled over the warm waters of the gulf and grew in intensity. By Monday morning, the National Hurricane Center had projected the potential for a category 4 landfall with a path that would likely impact the western counties of District Five. Hurricane strength winds were anticipated to cover much of the west coast as the projected path veered across the center of the state. In anticipation of such impacts, the I-75 ICM team confirmed camera presets for flip down signs, initiated contact with command staff of our FHP troops, ramped up Road Ranger patrols to 24-hours, began running hourly speed/volume reports, and readied their personnel for potential activation of ESU and post-storm recovery efforts, while closely monitoring Idalia's progression. Over the next 48-hours, we saw a noticeable decrease in traffic volumes compared to historical data. As the storm moved slowly across the Gulf, it shifted further to the northwest before making landfall in the Big Bend area of the state.

In the hours prior to and during landfall, I-75 TIM personnel were on watch in the RTMC. While we did see some higher wind gusts of 40+ mph in the northern part of Marion County, sustained winds never exceeded 25-mph, so Road Rangers and FHP remained on the road and ready to assist. We had one significant crash (not storm-related) on I-75 in Marion County during the peak of the storm's impact on District Five. Outside of that, District Five was quiet as most motorists had clearly opted to shelter in and avoid travel during the storm. Once the sun was up on Wednesday morning, assessment teams deployed and were thankful to find minimal damage. We had two signals and a flasher on state roads in Marion County that lost power. Generators were promptly deployed by our local maintaining agency, but power was restored in short order. Our thoughts quickly shifted to, and remain with, our counterparts in Districts Two and Three as they work through significant recovery efforts.



DISTRICT TWO RESPONDS TO HURRICANE IDALIA

Article supplied by District Two Incident Management staff

Hurricane Idalia made landfall as a powerful Category 3 hurricane near Keaton Beach at approximately 7:45am Wednesday, August 30th and left a significant impact on District Two's Information Technology Services (ITS) operating devices. The early onset of winds started around 5:30am that morning with the storm causing at least 40 directional or complete closures between Wednesday and Thursday, for which notifications were sent out, most due to fallen trees, downed power lines and a handful of flooding events. District Two lost almost all of its ITS devices on I-10 west of I-75 around 11am, and most of the devices on I-75 north of I-10 by 12 noon. Hundreds of trees fell along a 15-mile stretch of I-10 in Madison County. Road Rangers were pulled off route Wednesday morning from 1:00am to 12:30pm due to safety concerns. As of September 7th, District Two still has 15 Closed Caption TVs (CCTVs) and three Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) down with several others running on generator power.

After the storm subsided, Traffic Control Devices (TCD) deployed a total of 61 generators within a 48-hour time-period along I-10 and I-75. The deployment concentrated on getting power to multiple CCTV cameras along these interstates so the Emergency Operations Center could have a visual of debris on the shoulders and highways. TCD will keep the generators going until power can be fully restored by the corresponding utility companies. At present, a total of 10 generators are still deployed along I-10 and I-75.



A pole with a vehicle detection device (MVDS) sustained damage during the storm. Maintenance crews could not repair until the debris crews finish clearing the area.



A tree shown fallen over a master hub site. Fortunately, the fence stopped it from falling completely or this could have been a very costly repair.

FDOT HOSTS SUMMER HOLIDAY TRAVEL MEDIA EVENT IN DISTRICT SIX

SAFETY TIPS FOR THE SUMMER TRAVEL SEASON

Article supplied by District Six Incident Management staff

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) hosted a press conference in District Six to share important safety tips for the summer travel season that kicked off with the Fourth of July holiday. The media event was held in conjunction with transportation partners such as the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), Bike305, and others. It highlighted the collaborative approach the agencies take to provide drivers with the resources needed to arrive safely at their destinations. Representatives from **FDOT FL511.com's**, James Landini, P.E., and Savannah Sams, traveled to the District Office to speak at the press conference. They talked about the tools available on the traveler information service's website and the importance of planning ahead for a safe traveling experience. FDOT District Six Secretary, Stacy Miller, P.E., urged drivers to wear their seatbelts, stay sober, avoid distractions when driving, and to call ***347** if their vehicle becomes stranded on the road. FHP Troop E Major, Roger Reyes, focused on security measures by reminding drivers to lock their vehicle doors and remain vigilant when traveling. The event was hosted at the SunGuide Transportation Management Center to give media agencies a first-hand look at the traffic operations services provided to the public 24 hours per day, seven days per week. They recorded footage of the video wall and the traffic operators at work to show viewers the effort that happens behind the scenes. The event was followed by a demonstration of the District's Road Ranger and Incident Response Vehicle trucks that are available for roadway clearance and motorist assistance.

The press conference was covered by all the major media stations in southeast Florida. The event was transmitted to over 2.7 million viewers across multiple platforms, including over 340,000 views through national TV media outlets, over 72,000 radio listeners, and an audience of over 1 million from online news channels. The story was transmitted in English, Spanish, and Creole.

The event allowed FDOT and its partners to engage with the media and share this important information with the community. FDOT is committed to hosting these educational events because they are vital to the agency's mission of providing a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods in our state.



TIM RESPONSE

TO THE JUNIPER PRAIRIE WILDFIRE

By Sheryl Bradley, AECOM ICM Project Manager

On May 8, 2023, the District Five RTMC received a request from Florida Forest Services for smoke signs on SR 40 and SR 19, relating to a small fire that had started a week prior with less than 10 acres impacted from a lightning strike. The fire, at the time of the request, was at roughly 150 acres with no visibility issues to adjacent roadways, but dry conditions in the Ocala National Forest had fire professionals on high alert.

Rightfully so, as three days following the sign request, the fire had grown to over 2,000 acres. At that point, the fire was still 1.75 miles away from SR 19. Forestry spent the next few days monitoring conditions and debating the possibility of moving forward with a prescribed burn to rid the area of the underbrush that fueled the fire's growth.

As winds began to shift, monitoring shifted into high gear and AECOM's TIM Specialist, Garrett Popovich, reported to the command post for daily debriefs. From there, he also served as FDOT's point of contact to coordinate resources and response with the District Five Ocala Operations team and RTMC. Command was eventually shifted from state fire services to Federal Forestry Services, and more than 200 firefighters were brought in from across Florida and other states to contain the fire.

On May 17th, nine days after the RTMC notification, the fire jumped the containment line and SR 19 was closed because of visibility issues. A mobile incident command bus was set up at the corner of SR 19 and SR 40. A portable Smart Work Zone Trailer was deployed to provide visibility back to the RTMC, as well as to alert responders working along SR 19 of motorists breaching the closure.

By the 21st of May, the fire had grown to 4,325 acres and was only 46% contained. AECOM's TIM personnel worked diligently with local responders, Marion County Emergency Management, FHP,



and District Five's Ocala Operations team to ensure resources were in place should the fire impact spread further and impact SR 40, which would have called for a major diversion. Simultaneously, the team was working with PIOs from District Five, FHP, and Marion Co to ensure unified messaging of impacted roadways and designated diversions.







On May 23rd, after a day of heavy rains, the Juniper Prairie fire was deemed mostly contained, and SR 19 was reopened following 15 days of on-site traffic incident management.



PERFORMANCE MEASURES

RESPONDERS TRAINED

The National TIM Responder Training Program was developed and reviewed by professionals from all responder disciplines, and those disciplines are the target audience for the training. Since the implementation of the program, **15,188** incident responders have received training in the state of Florida (as of June 19, 2023). That number represents roughly **35.9%** of the responders in operational roles that support traffic incident response operations. During the fourth quarter of FY 2022/2023, about **292** responders received the training. This figure provides the breakdown, by discipline, of the responders trained.

TIM TRAINING RECEIVED BY:	FIRST QUARTER	SECOND QUARTER	THIRD QUARTER	FOURTH QUARTER	FYTD TOTAL
	2	46	39	11	98
	73	169	178	118	538
	19	25	30	19	93
	31	29	46	27	133
	12	56	103	97	268
	22	29	34	20	105
QTR TOTAL	159	354	430	292	1,235

2023 NATIONAL RESPONDER SAFETY UPDATE

<https://www.respondersafety.com/news/struck-by-incidents/yearly-fatality-reports/>

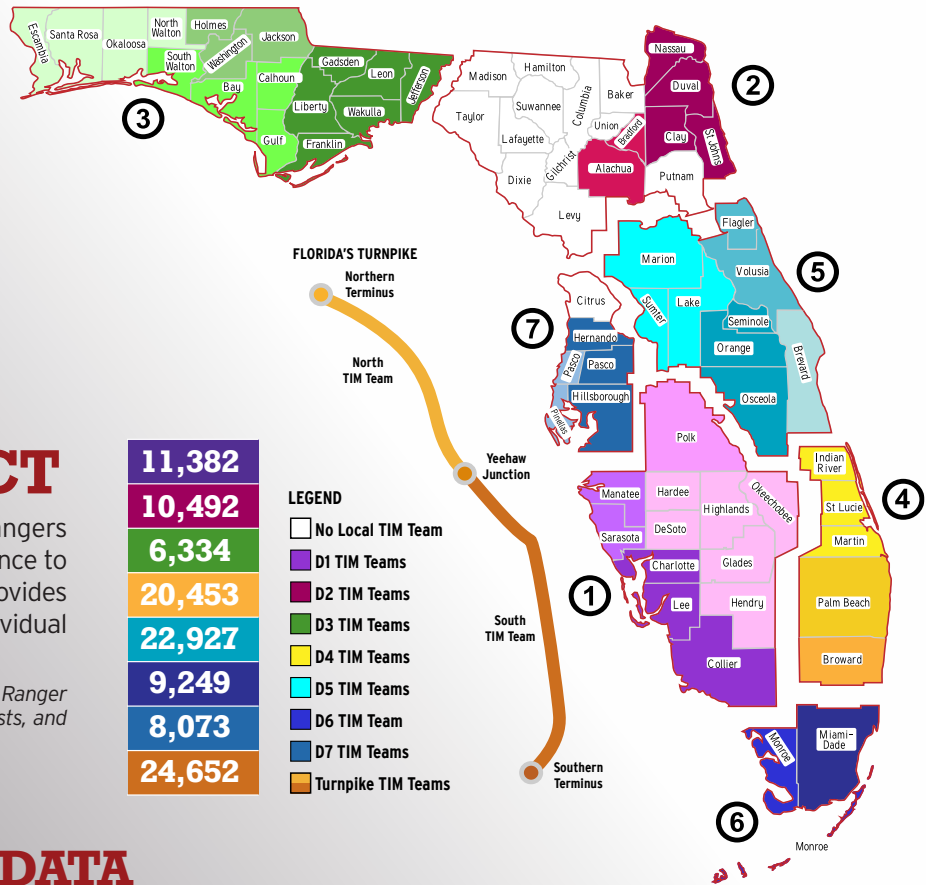
RESPONDER	FATALITIES
DOT	1
Crash Scene	1
Fire and EMS	6
Crash Scene	4
Vehicular Assault	1
Vehicle Fire	1
Law Enforcement	7
Stuck by Train	1
Directing Traffic	2
Physical Training	1
Vehicular Assault	1
Stop-Sticks	2
Road Service Technician	0
Disabled Vehicle	10
Towing	13
Crash Scene	1
Vehicular Assault	1
Debris Removal	1
Grand Total	27



ROAD RANGER ASSISTS BY DISTRICT

During the fourth quarter of FY 2022/2023, Road Rangers were involved in **113,562** events providing assistance to the motorists of Florida. The figure to the right provides the total number of assists provided by the individual District Road Ranger programs.

**Note: An event is defined as the arrival of one or more Road Ranger vehicles on-scene at an incident. Events can have multiple assists, and each Road Ranger will have at least one assist per event.*



ROAD RANGER ASSIST DATA

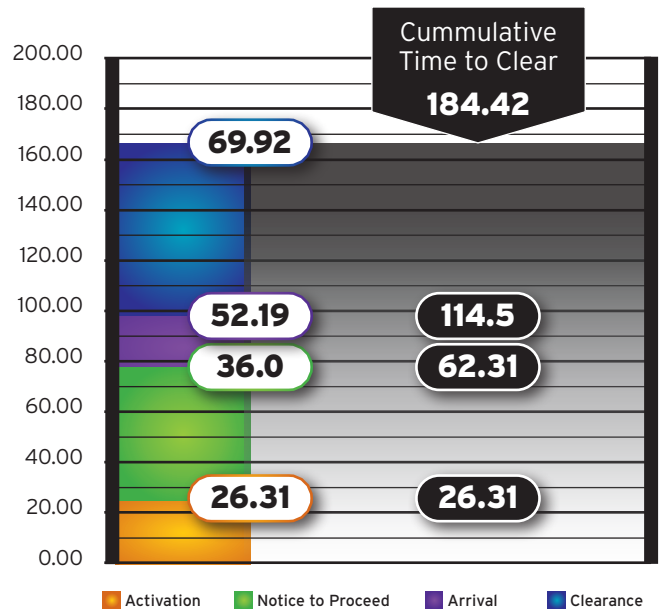
**Note: Numbers are incomplete and not accurate because some Districts are having issues generating reports with the new SunGuide software update.*

	HIGHEST ACTIVITY TOTALS		LOWEST ACTIVITY TOTALS	
	SOURCE	TOTAL	SOURCE	TOTAL
ASSISTS BY NOTIFIER	ROAD RANGER	63,075	MOTORIST	51
ASSISTS BY EVENT TYPE	DISABLED VEHICLE	72,346	CONGESTION	9
ARRIVALS BY DAY OF WEEK*	FRIDAY	20,370	SATURDAY	16,028
ARRIVALS BY TIMEFRAME*	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	24,724	12:00 am - 3:00 am	4,295



STATEWIDE AVERAGE RISC INCIDENT DURATION

During the fourth quarter of FY 2022/2023, seven Districts and FTE activated the RISC Program **135** times with approximately **\$403,600** in bonus-incentive payments made to vendors.



DISTRICT FIVE OFFERS UP LIVE NATIONAL TIM RESPONDER TRAINING TO FLORIDA AGENCIES

By Lisa McDuffie, Technical Information Officer, FDOT District Five

Multi-car accident - words that make every minute of response time critical. In 2021, when 48 vehicles crashed on westbound State Road 408 in Orlando near the Conway Road Toll Plaza, first responders were quickly on the scene, but it soon became clear that more towing resources were needed to help remove the high number of damaged vehicles.

Mike Hudson, District Five Traffic Incident Management (TIM) program manager, remembers the multi-car pileup like it was yesterday. "Lots of rain and mist created a zero-visibility situation. It happened right after rush hour. We cleared 34 vehicles that day."

With such an extensive incident scene and so many vehicles needing to be cleared, Hudson and District Five's TIM team dispatched additional resources. Overwhelmed by the number of vehicles that required removal, additional tow vehicles were sent through the SafeTow program, helping to clear what would typically be an hours-long incident in 90 minutes.

Traffic incidents such as this 2021 crash are used for lessons learned and included in National TIM Responder Training Program classes, which Hudson teaches annually across District Five. The training is associated with the online Strategic Highway Research Program 2 (known as SHRP2). The free instruction is available statewide and taught in person to responder agencies, which represent all disciplines, including:

- » Communications
- » Fire/rescue
- » Emergency management
- » Law enforcement
- » Emergency medical services
- » Towing and recovery



District Five TIM Program Manager Mike Hudson leads a session of the Strategic Highway Research Program 2.

Hudson said the Apopka Fire Department is so impressed with the in-person training that every new class of recruits takes the course.

Responder agencies of all sizes, regardless of their location in Florida, are invited to request the live training from District Five. Hudson travels throughout the state giving tailored presentations and will even "instruct an instructor" to deliver the course.

The half-day training is worth four hours of professional development credit and was created and pilot-tested by responders for responders. At its core, the course teaches participants to recognize the dangers encountered by emergency responders working in or near traffic, and to respond according to best practices and legal considerations – in particular, the myriad of "push-pull-drag" laws pertaining to removal of vehicles and debris from travel lanes.

The course covers:

- » TIM fundamentals and terminology
- » Command responsibilities
- » Notification and scene size-up
- » Traffic management
- » Safe vehicle positioning
- » Special circumstances
- » Scene safety
- » Clearance and termination

"At the end of the day, the justification for this training is the safety of incident responders, the safety of all road users, and the mitigation of congestion," said Hudson. "The protection of all involved from the potential devastation of a secondary crash is reason for every type of incident responder to take the training program."

"All District Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) operators and staff complete the course, along with Road Rangers," added Hudson, who draws on his 19 years of traffic operations experience in teaching. "We're building on this encouraging level of interest to fill a calendar with both large open sessions and with small classes presented to individual agencies."

Contact Mike Hudson at Michael.Hudson@dot.state.fl.us to inquire about scheduling your agency for District Five's live presentation of the National TIM Responder Training Program.



FLORIDA TAKES AN EDGE ON DRONE TECHNOLOGY!

FLORIDA'S SUNTRAX FACILITY INCORPORATES DRONE TECHNOLOGY FOR FDOT'S PROJECTS

Article supplied by Suntrax Incident Management staff

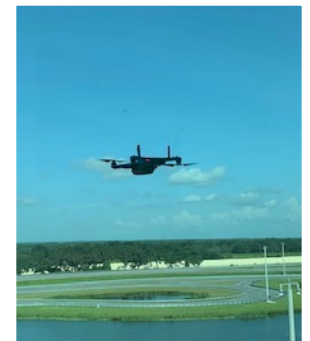
Florida's Suntrax Facility, nestled in Polk County, has emerged as a groundbreaking hub for cutting-edge technology and innovation for Florida's roadways. Now with a particular focus on the utilization of drone technology, Suntrax is playing a pivotal role in shaping the future of the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) drone operations initiatives. Suntrax, often referred to as the "Transportation Technology Testing Complex," is an advanced facility dedicated to developing and testing new technologies aimed at improving transportation systems. Spanning over 400 acres, the facility offers a diverse range of testing environments, including a 2.25-mile-long high-speed oval designed to simulate real-world road conditions. While its primary focus is on tolling technologies, autonomous vehicles and intelligent transportation systems, the facility has also emerged as a prime location for drone training and experimentation.

FDOT has created Drone Response Teams (DRT) within each DOT District and Florida's Turnpike by identifying key personnel and outfitting each DRT with an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). This July, each DRT, which includes two to four FDOT employees, traveled to SunTrax and had multiple days of training and testing of their new UAV. Gregory Cacioppo and Mark Cassie are Florida's Turnpike's UAS coordinators. It shall be each DRT's mission to use this resource to perform aerial data collection safely and effectively while also respecting the private property and privacy of the citizens that reside within the respective District's boundaries. FDOT's emphasis on drone training serves a crucial purpose in preparing for the integration of drone technology into future FDOT projects. Drones are rapidly evolving as valuable tools in transportation management, infrastructure assessment, and disaster response.

By providing a controlled environment for training, Suntrax enables FDOT personnel to develop their drone piloting skills, understand the intricacies of drone operations, and explore the various applications drones can have in the transportation sector. One of the key advantages of Suntrax is its ability to facilitate collaboration between public agencies, private companies, and research institutions. This collaborative environment accelerates the development and adoption of innovative solutions, including those related to drone technology.

The facility's integration of drone training and testing for FDOT projects is a testament to the cooperative efforts

between various stakeholders aiming to transform Florida's transportation landscape. Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, responsible for overseeing the operation of the state's toll highways, has recognized the potential of drone technology in enhancing its operations. Drones can be used for tasks such as inspecting bridges and overpasses, monitoring traffic flow, and assessing road conditions. The implementation of drones can lead to improved efficiency, cost savings, and enhanced safety measures. While FDOT drone training initiatives hold immense promise, there are Challenges that need to be addressed: Ensuring the safe and responsible use of drones in crowded urban environments, privacy concerns, and regulatory compliance are just a few areas that require careful consideration. Looking ahead, Suntrax's role in training and fostering innovation is poised to expand. As drone technology continues to mature, the facility's testing capabilities will likely evolve to accommodate even more advanced scenarios and applications. This progress will not only benefit FDOT projects but also contribute to positioning Florida as a leader in transportation technology.



DISTRICT ONE SETS ALL-TIME HIGH FOR RISC EVENTS

By Tom Arsenault, District One TIM / RISC Program Manager

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. In Fiscal Year 2023, District One achieved a significant milestone with an all-time high of 56 RISC events, surpassing the previous record of 35 events in FY 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 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.

FDOT DISTRICT SIX ENHANCES CONTROL ROOM

LAUNCHES NEW VIDEO WALL PROJECT

Article supplied by District Six Incident Management staff

The District Six Transportation System Management & Operations (TSM&O) Program Office has been expanding its operations and is implementing new traffic management strategies to meet the growing demands of southeast Florida. As part of its overall expansion efforts, the District has been upgrading the SunGuide Transportation Management Center (TMC) with new systems and design features to accommodate current and future program needs.

The SunGuide TMC is a 32,000 square foot facility that serves as the major transportation hub for the region. It was inaugurated in 2004 and houses traffic management and communications dispatch staff for FDOT District Six, Greater Miami Expressway Agency (GMX), Florida Highway Patrol Troop 'E,' and other agencies. The facility has undergone several upgrades throughout the years to accommodate program growth. Most notably, in 2015, the District retrofitted the center's control room to accommodate more workstations and redesigned them from a linear model to modular pods streamlining communication and promoting a collaborative work environment between TMC operators. This summer, these same workstations were enhanced with a standing desk feature to provide operators with the option to sit or stand during their shifts. This change was a simple and cost-effective enhancement that has yielded positive feedback from the staff.

The District is currently in the process of procuring a new video wall with state-of-the-art technology that will improve display resolution and flexibility of use. The current wall was installed in 2013 and is composed of 28 digital light processing (DLP) rear-projection cubes with a life expectancy of 88,000 hours. The new video wall will feature a Direct View Light-Emitting Diode (DVLED) display which is the latest in control room technology with a life expectancy of over 100,000 hours. The new wall will also provide a bezel-less, seamless picture display and will take up less space in the control room. The District selected this technology after it conducted extensive industry research and made numerous site visits to see various options in operation. It drafted a detailed request for proposal with built-in operational and maintenance requirements to ensure long-term sustainability. The project was awarded this summer as a low-bid design-build contract. It will cost approximately \$1.9 million dollars and is expected to be completed in summer 2024.

The District understands the importance of remaining adaptive to the changing landscape of Florida's transportation network. Identifying traffic trends and providing the solutions needed to meet demand is essential for the safety and reliability of our roadways.



CRASH RESPONDER SAFETY WEEK

PROMOTES ROADWAY SAFETY AND APPRECIATION FOR RESPONDERS

Mark your calendars for Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW), taking place from November 13 to 17. This annual initiative serves as a vital reminder of the essential actions we can all take to ensure the safety of roadway responders and the public during traffic incidents.

CRSW is a collaborative effort, with organizations across the region and state joining forces to organize and participate in various events and activities aimed at promoting road user awareness and adherence to Move Over laws and Traffic Incident Management (TIM) training for all traffic incident responders. The State of Florida is actively involved in this important campaign.

THE HEROES ON OUR ROADS

Every day, around the clock, a diverse group of heroes - law enforcement officers, fire and rescue personnel, emergency medical services providers, public works employees, transportation professionals, towing operators, and other responders - work tirelessly along the roadsides. Their mission is to make our roadways safer for all users. These brave traffic incident responders put their lives on the line while handling each of the nearly 7 million annual motor vehicle crashes or addressing a broader range of incidents, such as stalled vehicles or roadway debris.

PROMOTING MOVE OVER LAWS

One of the fundamental aspects of CRSW is promoting "Move Over" laws. These laws require drivers to move over and slow down when they encounter an emergency or maintenance vehicle on the side of the road with flashing lights with flashing lights on the side of the road. Florida, alongside its partners, will be educating the public about these crucial laws and reminding everyone about their responsibility to protect these essential workers.

TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT (TIM) TRAINING

Another key focus of CRSW is Traffic Incident Management (TIM) training. Effective TIM ensures that incidents are cleared efficiently, minimizing risks to responders and the public. Florida recognizes the significance of this training and is dedicated to enhancing the skills of traffic incident responders in the region.

Crash Responder Safety Week is an opportunity for all of us to come together and make a difference in the lives of those who risk their own to keep our roadways safe. Let's show our support, raise awareness, and ensure that our heroes return home safely after every call.

Remember, when you see those flashing lights on the roadside, please Move Over and give our responders the space they need to work safely.



DAILY THEMES:

MONDAY - Protect Those Who Protect You:

We kick off the week with a focus on showing appreciation and support for the brave individuals who protect us on the roads. Let's remember the sacrifices they make to ensure our safety.

TUESDAY - Driver Education:

On Tuesday, we turn our attention to driver education. It's a day dedicated to educating the public about the importance of adhering to Move Over laws and driving safely near incident scenes.

WEDNESDAY - Responder Training:

Wednesday highlights the significance of ongoing responder training in Traffic Incident Management (TIM). Effective training is crucial for ensuring the safety of both responders and the public.

THURSDAY - More Than a Crash:

Thursday reminds us that traffic incidents go beyond mere crashes. Responders deal with a wide range of situations, and we need to recognize their contribution in handling incidents such as stalled vehicles or roadway debris.

FRIDAY - Slow Down, Move Over:

The week culminates with a call to action. On Friday, we emphasize the critical "Slow Down, Move Over" message. When you see flashing lights on the roadside, remember to give our responders the space they need to work safely.



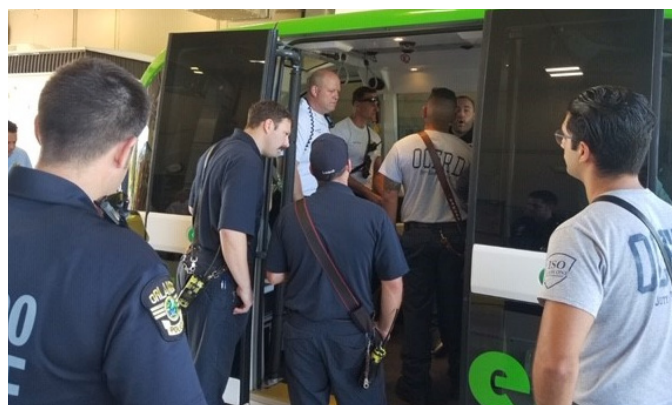
TIM RESPONDER TRAINING COURSE

The National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Training course was developed by responders for responders and provides a common platform for training on TIM standards and good practices. The overall purpose of the training is to enhance quick clearance efforts and improve the safety of responders and motorists. The course covers the following nine lessons:

- » **Introduction:** definition of TIM and the dangers encountered when responding to incidents
- » **TIM Fundamentals and Terminology:** safe, quick clearance goals and supporting legislation, and common response terminology
- » **Notification and Scene Size-Up:** roles and responsibilities of public safety communications centers and transportation management centers, and scene size-up reporting
- » **Safe Vehicle Positioning:** safe-positioning of vehicles, blocking, and safe practices for avoiding the zero buffer
- » **Scene Safety:** emergency vehicle markings, emergency-vehicle lighting, and use of high-visibility safety apparel
- » **Command Responsibilities:** high-level review of the Incident Command System (ICS)
- » **Traffic Management:** components of a Traffic Incident Management Area, proper use of traffic control devices
- » **Special Circumstances:** vehicle fires, hazardous materials, vehicle fluid spills, and crash investigations
- » **Clearance and Termination:** quick clearance strategies, towing and recovery communications, and incident termination

The target audience for the training is individuals from all TIM disciplines, including: Law Enforcement, Fire/Rescue, Emergency Medical Service, Towing and Recovery, Emergency Management, Communications, and Transportation/Public Works.

If you are interested in scheduling a training session or taking a training course, please direct questions to Shawn Kinney at: FloridaTIM@dot.state.fl.us



TIM TEAM + WORKING GROUP

MEETINGS + WEBINARS

	Date/Time	District	Meeting	Location
OCTOBER	10/3/2023 1:00 am	1	D1 2023 TIM Team Meeting	Heartland (Virtually)
	10/4/2023 1:30 - 3:30 am	4	Broward / Miami-Dade Combined TIM Team Meeting	Miami Dade hosts
	10/10/2023 1:30 pm	1	D1 2023 TIM Team Meeting	Manatee County Public Safety Center, 2101 47th Terrace East, Bradenton, FL 34203
	10/11/2023 10 am - 11.30 am	2	Alachua-Bradford TIM Meeting	FDOT Gainesville Operations Office, 5301 N.E. 39th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32609
	10/11/2023 9:30 am	1	D1 2023 TIM Team Meeting	SWIFT SunGuide Center, 10041 Daniels Pkwy., Fort Myers, FL 33913
	10/12/2023 10:00 am	1	D1 2023 TIM Team Meeting	Polk County Sheriff's Office, 1891 Jim Keene Blvd., Winter Haven, FL 33880
NOVEMBER	11/1/2023 9:30 am - 11 am	5	I-4/Metro Orlando Quarterly TIM Meeting	FDOT RTMC 4975 Wilson Rd., Sanford, FL
	11/2/2023 9:30 am - 11 am	5	I-75 Area Quarterly TIM Meeting	CO Public Safety (EOC), 7361 Powell Rd., Wildwood, FL
	11/7/2023 1:30 - 3:30 pm	4	Palm Beach TIM Team Meeting	Palm Beach Ops Auditorium
	11/9/2023 9:30 am - 11 am	5	I-95 South (Brevard) Quarterly TIM Meeting	FHP Brevard Office, 3775 W.King St., Cocoa, FL
	11/14/2023 10:00 am	TPE	Turnpike TIM South	Pompano Beach - Turnpike Pompano Beach Operations Center
	11/14/2023 10:00 am	7	Pinellas TIM Team Meeting	FDOT District 7 Pinellas Maintenance Office, 5211 Ulmerton Rd., Clearwater, FL 33670
	11/16/2023 9:30 am - 11 am	5	I-95 North (Volusia/Flagler) Quarterly TIM Meeting	Volusia Emergency Management Center, 3825 Tiger Bay Rd., Daytona Beach, FL
	11/16/2023 10:00 am	TPE	Turnpike TIM North	Turkey Lake Orlando, Turnpike Turkey Lake Headquarters
	11/21/2023 10 am - 12 pm	2	First Coast TIM Meeting	Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC), 980 N. Jefferson St., Jacksonville, FL 32213
11/28/2023 10:00 am	7	Hillsborough TIM Team Meeting	FDOT District 7 HQ Auditorium, 11201 N. McKinley Dr., Tampa, FL 33612	
DECEMBER	12/7/2023 1:30 - 3:30 pm	4	Treasure Coast TIM Team Meeting	FDOT Treasure Coast Ops Center, 3601 Oleander Ave. Crew Building #3 Fort Pierce
	12/12/2023 1:30 pm	1	D1 2023 TIM Team Meeting	Manatee County Public Safety Center, 2101 47th Terrace East, Bradenton, FL 34203
	12/13/2023 10 am - 11.30 am	2	Alachua-Bradford TIM Meeting	FDOT Gainesville Operations Office, 5301 N.E. 39th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32609
	12/13/2023 9:30 am	1	D1 2023 TIM Team Meeting	SWIFT SunGuide Center, 10041 Daniels Pkwy., Fort Myers, FL 33913.



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**Traffic Incident
Management**

To receive the TIM Newsletter, please complete this form: <https://wkf.ms/3SkExDK>