

Gwinnett County Highway Incident Management Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2003

<u>Present:</u>	Craig Adair	Gwinnett Police – Special Ops
	Ted Bailey	Gwinnett County Medical Examiners Office
	Clint Brook	Georgia DOT – HERO
	Steve Cline	Gwinnett Police - Eastside
	Angie Conley	Gwinnett County Communications
	Alan Doss	Gwinnett Police - Southside
	Jennifer Dusek	Eagle Towing
	Rick Edmunds	Gwinnett Police – Northside
	Joel Garner	Statewide Wrecker/TRAG
	James Gordon	Georgia DOT
	Danny Holmes	Gwinnett Police – Special Ops
	Bart Hulsey	Gwinnett Police - Westside
	Tim Hunter	Gwinnett Police - Central
	Wayne Jarrell	Georgia DMVS
	Charlene Njoroge	Georgia DOT
	Mshadoni Smith	Federal Highway Administration
	Ted Whitlock	Ted Whitlock Towing
	Jeff Yoder	Gwinnett Fire - Training

Overview:

This was the ninth meeting for the Gwinnett County Highway Incident Management Steering Committee and was hosted by the Gwinnett County Police Department.

Agenda

The agenda for the meeting included the following:

- (1) Introductions were made. There were new participants present including several Gwinnett Police precinct commanders, Jennifer Dusek representing Eagle Towing, Charlene Njoroge representing Georgia DOT and Jeff Yoder representing Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services.
- (2) Mshadoni Smith provided an overview of the progress of the TIME Task Force, which is the regional highway incident management initiative. The update included information on the recent TIME meeting held at the Freight Depot on October 1, 2003 as well as the Proclamation signed by the Governor and the involvement of the Clean Air Campaign.

- (3) There was a brief discussion concerning a tabletop or mock exercise for Gwinnett County. Major Hulseley indicated that one had been done recently involving the school system. The scenario involved a loaded school bus involved in a crash with a truck carrying hazardous materials. The exercise involved Emergency Management and Fire personnel as well as school officials.

Jeff Yoder suggested that any mock or tabletop exercise be coordinated through Frank Daniell in Emergency Management.

- (4) A train-the-trainer course will be held in February in Marietta. This is a program out of Bucks Community College and Pennsylvania Fire academy. Various agencies from throughout the region will be invited with the intention of developing a lesson plan for emergency responders.

- (5) Mshadoni Smith asked the participants to name some impediments to highway incident management. Among the issues discussed were:

- Lack of public education concerning what to do upon encountering or being involved in an incident. This included having alternate routes pre planned and having signs already in place along major routes to mark the detour. The signs could be covered when not in use or folded down. During an incident the signs could be opened showing a detour route.
- Officers or civilians being reluctant to move vehicles out of the roadway. An idea was to have 911 operators tell people reporting incidents to move the vehicles out of the travel lanes.
- Tow operators being detained by persons involved in a crash wanting to take personal belongings out their vehicles in the road or by the side of the road. This could be done in the wrecker lot at a later time. Officers need to be willing to tell people to clean it out later to speed up the on-scene process.
- Police can cite people who refuse to move their vehicle but seldom do so. This might encourage people to move their vehicles if they were educated about it and realized there were consequences for not doing so.
- A new state law is requiring that the amber lights on wreckers be turned on at all times will cause confusion. Wrecker operators are opposed to this, as they should only be activated while on a scene/call.
- Common communications are lacking. Emergency responders are on separate radio/phone systems and frequencies making communications difficult.

Next Scheduled Meeting

TBD

Gwinnett County Police Central Precinct

The Gwinnett County Police Central Precinct is located at 3125 Satellite Boulevard,
Duluth, Ga,

Directions from I-85 - Exit I-85 at Pleasant Hill Road. Travel west towards Duluth. You will pass in front of Gwinnett Place Mall on the right. Go to the 4th traffic signal, which should be Satellite Blvd. Turn right onto Satellite Blvd. Take Satellite Blvd. approximately 1.5 miles. (Satellite Blvd. runs behind Gwinnett Place Mall.) The Central Precinct is located just past the intersection of Satellite Blvd. and Old Norcross Rd. (There is a traffic signal there) and is on the left. (Call Dan Bruno at 770-513-5049 if you need additional information.)

Gwinnett County Highway Incident Management Steering Committee

Agenda – October 9, 2003

Welcome and Introductions – Dan Bruno

Regional Incident Management Initiative – Mshadoni Smith

Training Exercise – Dan Bruno

Recent Incidents/Developments/Problems