

Georgia's Traffic Incident Management **TIMES**

The newsletter of the Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) Task Force and the Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP)

August 2009 Index

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Gasoline tanker incident shows value of TRIP



A crew from Southside Wrecker works to upright the overturned tanker truck after the Haz-Mat situation has been handled.

On November 18, 2008 at approximately 5:38 p.m., a tanker truck carrying gasoline overturned on the Southbound I-285 ramp to Southbound I-85. The overturned truck affected all three lanes, closing the ramp.

The Fulton County Police officer on-scene activated TRIP, and the TMC dispatched Southside Wrecker Services. South-

side was at the scene by 5:59 p.m. By this time, responders had discovered that the cargo tank on the tanker truck was penetrated and had spilled approximately 90 gallons of gasoline onto the roadway, with an additional gallon per second spilling out. Over the course of the incident, approximately 5,000

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First 16 months of TRIP program a big success

Since TRIP's implementation in January 2008, there have been 88 TRIP activations in the Atlanta region. In approximately 95% of these activations, arrival and clearance times were met and incentives paid—meaning the program has been extremely successful even during its infancy.

Four companies participated in the TRIP program from January 2008—April 2009, which included Barrow Wrecker Service, New Image Towing, S&W Towing and Southside Wrecker Service. The 88 activations included multiple successful responses from each company.

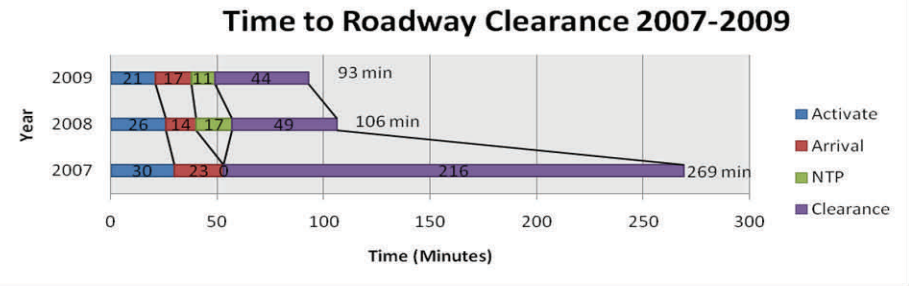
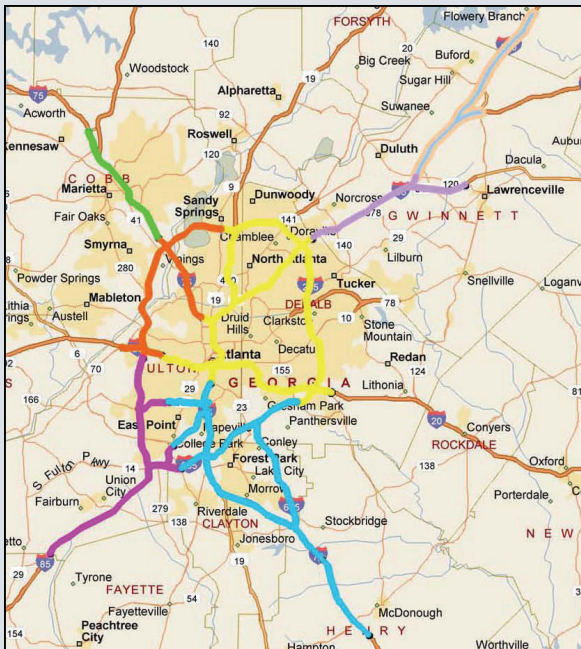
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TRIP expansion extends program reach

The success of the TRIP program has prompted the expansion of the program from its original boundaries. The original boundaries of the program included I-285 and all freeways inside the perimeter, GA 400 and all interchange ramps, and four hot spots:

- I-85 Northside: To Pleasantdale Exit
- I-75 Northside: To Windy Hill Exit

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First 16 months of TRIP program big success, cont.

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TRIP has improved incident management in Metro Atlanta through high-level personnel, training and equipment requirements for TRIP-certified wrecker companies as well as an emphasis on quick, safe clearance. In fact, during the first year of the TRIP program, incident clearance times for large-scale commercial vehicle incidents decreased significantly.

As shown on the graphic that accompanies this article, the average clearance time for TRIP-qualifying incidents decreased from an average of 269 minutes in 2007 (before TRIP implementation) to 93 minutes in 2009. These numbers show an average time saving of 2 hours, 56 minutes per incident.

A special thanks to our Participating TRIP companies!

- Barrow Wrecker
- Marietta Wrecker
- New Image Towing
- S&W Towing
- Southside Wrecker
- Statewide Wrecker
- Terry's Towing

For more information about the TRIP program, contact:
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Training and outreach spreading important incident management knowledge across region

Since 2007, the I-95 Corridor Coalition, along with TIME, GDOT, and GRTA, have sponsored more than a dozen training courses for Towing and Recovery personnel as well as responders from a variety of agencies across the region. This training has included National Highway Institute incident management courses, TRIP Level 1 Operator training, TRIP Level II Supervisor training, Haz-Mat awareness, MUTCD and flagger training, and Cargo Truck Emergency Response Training. This training has certified 62 TRIP operators and supervisors and provided continuing education for approximately 200 other responders. Most training is offered at a discounted price for private companies and is free for the public sector.

In addition to training, TRIP outreach has been conducted throughout the Atlanta region to fire and rescue, 911 dispatch, police, EMS, etc. Information on outreach and training will be distributed via email to TIME Task Force members and those identified through TRIP outreach. If you would like to receive these announcements, send your email address to c.macaulay@delcan.com. Training information can also accessed at www.timetaskforce.com/trip.html.



Trainees participate in hands-on demonstrations during TRIP Level II Supervisor Training through Wreckmaster.

TRAA models TRIP to adopt national education standards

The Towing and Recovery Association of America (TRAA) has modeled the TRIP training program to adopt national education standards. The standards were officially adopted in May at the Western States Tow Show.

Prior to officially adopting the standards, TRAA had been holding discussions about the development of national training standards for towing and recovery personnel based on the TRIP training model.

Recently, the TRAA Education Committee hosted towing & recovery industry trainers at a meeting to discuss developing and adopting a standardized course of instruction to become a "National Standard." Currently, various towing and recovery courses around the country simply give students a certificate of completion of attendance when they take a course. There is no universally recognized and adapted certification course. There is a need for courses for light, medium and heavy operators that is recognized by every agency and state in the country. This type of certification would raise the bar for traffic incident management as well as place towers on a responder level with law enforcement and fire rescue.

The committee discussed various options for a national standard. John Weaver, of TRAG and the Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) Task Force, presented the TRIP program

as an option for the course model. He distributed the Request for Proposal, which outlines TRIP training criteria to the committee members for review.

After discussing the TRIP Level I and II training courses, the committee made a recommendation for TRIP training to be used as a guideline for the national standard. The committee voted to call the standard program the "Minimum Tow Operator Skill Levels."

At the TRAA Legislative conference in March 2009, a panel gave a presentation and answered questions regarding the training standard. The panel included Justin Cruse of WreckMaster, Misty Rash, Texas Towing & Storage Association Trainer, Tad Booker, trainer from Arizona, John Weaver, TRIP Standards & Training Committee, and Peter Fuerst, California AAA and IITR.

The panel, moderated by Glenn Landau, Chairman of the TRAA Education Committee, fielded questions for more than two hours with great response and feedback from attendees.

This successful panel helped lead to the adoption of the standards in Reno in May.

The training standards will continue to be discussed and developed at future meetings. The next meeting is planned for Chattanooga, Tennessee in September to coincide with the Towing & Recovery Museum Hall of Fame induction.



Crews clean up the fuel spill.

Gasoline Tanker incident shows value, cont.

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gallons of gasoline had spilled onto the roadway, creating a serious hazard.

Because of the Haz-Mat situation, significant cleanup was needed before Southside received the Notice to Proceed (NTP) at 12:07 a.m. After the NTP, Southside up-righted the overturned truck and cleared the roadway within 49 minutes.

Considering the complexity and scale of the incident, 49 minutes clearance from Notice to Proceed is phenomenal.

TRIP Expansion, Cont.

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- I-20 Westside: To Fulton Industrial Exit
- I-20 Eastside: To Wesley Chapel Exit

The expansion began on January 19, 2009, extending the program South on I-75 to Exit 216 at S.R. 155. On April 1, the program expanded North on I-75 to exit 271 at Chastain Road in Cobb County.

Further expansions took place on June 1 to include (Gwinnett County) I-85 North to Exit 115 and S.R 316 North to Sugarloaf Parkway as well as (Hall County) I-985 North to Exit 12 at Flowery Branch.

Three additional companies have been added to the program to service the new coverage areas: Statewide Wrecker Services, Terry's Towing Services, and Willard Wrecker Service, Inc.

The TRIP expansion will broaden the benefits of the program, while giving more responders and wrecker companies an opportunity to participate in the groundbreaking program. Additional program outreach will be planned to address the continued expansion and to familiarize new stakeholders with the program.