

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

Welcome!

December 2010

Whether you're a new friend of the TIME Task Force and TRIP or a long-time supporter, we thank you for your interest.

We hope you will find this newsletter informative, and we welcome you to the December issue of Georgia's Traffic Incident Management TIMES.

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January 2011 Quarterly Meeting

Mark your calendars! The next TIME Quarterly Meeting will be held in Henry County on January 18, 2011, at 97 Lake Dow Road in McDonough. This meeting will help responders from across Metro Atlanta exchange ideas and foster multi-agency cooperation and coordination.

The meeting will feature presentations on:

- Responding to hydrogen sulfide suicides
- Florida's light and medium duty towing program
- Metro Atlanta TIM Teams

To register for the meeting, click [here](#). Be sure to check the TIME website, www.timetaskforce.com, for more details and a draft agenda.



TRIP Specs Being Used Statewide



Along with the Towing and Recovery Association of Georgia (TRAG), TIME would like to see an improvement in statewide heavy duty towing and recovery standards. Our goal is to have heavy duty towing companies in Georgia use TRIP equipment specifications and training requirements throughout the state.

Thanks to towing companies in Augusta, Commerce, and Newnan, TRAG and TIME's goal is becoming a reality. Enterprising towers in these Georgia cities are currently using the TRIP requirements as criteria in their operations and are being recognized by GDOT and local and state law enforcement. Special kudos go to Chancey's Wrecker Services in Augusta, Seymour's Wrecker Service in Commerce, and Parker's Wrecker Service in Newnan—the newest TRIP-certified company—for adhering to the TRIP specifications in an effort to raise the bar for towing in Georgia. These companies are a model for the rest of the state as industry leaders.

TRIP Spotlight: Marietta Wrecker Service

Family-owned and operated, Marietta Wrecker Service was started by Mike and Terri Welchel in 1974 in a small gas station with one truck.



Marietta Wrecker Service co-owners and vice presidents Steven and Chris Welchel were born into the towing business. They worked for their parents part-time during summers when they were younger, and once they finished school, they started full-time. Over the past 35 years, Marietta Wrecker Service has grown into a 24/7 commercial towing company with a staff of 25 experienced, professional employees.

Their most interesting TRIP incident involved an intermodal trailer loaded with tallow, which is rendered animal fat. The tank broke loose from the intermodal trailer frame, but relocating it wasn't an option—the trailer was too unstable and the risk of spilling the load was too great. Fortunately, though, Marietta Wrecker operators were able to upright the unit and clear the roadway within 90 minutes, saving drivers on I-75 from further delay and a huge mess.

When asked why they decided to become a TRIP company, VP Chris Welchel answered, "We wanted to continue to recover major accidents on Metro interstates and strengthen our relationships with the local and state agencies." They've been doing a great job of both so far.

TIM Team Update: Vehicle Placement Tabletop Exercises

Metro Atlanta TIM Teams looking for a fun, informative, and educational addition to their meeting agendas can participate in a responder vehicle placement exercise. Proper vehicle placement at an incident scene is vital for safe and effective traffic control.

Using different incident scenarios, responders use toy cars and trucks to stage the scene. Each responder has to play the role of another agency; for example, a fire fighter can't place a fire truck. This hands-on tabletop exercise supports MUTCD Chapter 6I (found [here](#)), fosters multi-agency communication, and creates a greater awareness of everyone's roles and responsibilities.



Vehicle Placement Tabletop Exercise

Recently, the Roswell/Alpharetta and Bartow/Cartersville TIM Teams took advantage of this vehicle placement exercise, under the direction of Rory Howe and Ted Smith of Delcan Corporation. The Roswell/Alpharetta TIM Team used the exercise to help their responders recreate a multi-vehicle incident on GA-400.

To schedule a vehicle placement exercise for your TIM Team, contact Rory Howe by [email](#) or 404-320-1776.

2010 TIME Annual Conference

The TIME Conference, held in the Foundry Park Inn in Athens, GA on October 25 and 26, was a huge success! More than 115 attendees enjoyed the hotel's hospitality, an awards dinner emceed by Georgia State Patrol's Soffie Thigpen, a competitive silent auction, and several hours of dynamic presentations.

To watch a picture slideshow or download speaker presentations from the 2010 conference, visit the TIME [website](#).

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We hope to see you all again in 2011!

2010 TIME Saver Award Winners

Congratulations to members of the Bartow County/Cartersville TIM Team, the winners of this year's TIME Saver Award. The Team was recognized by the TIME Task Force for their demonstration of outstanding safe, quick clearance.

Award winners include Chief Scott Carter, Cartersville Fire Department; Chief Craig Millsap, Bartow County Fire Department; Sergeant Danny Blevins, GSP; Chief Tommy Culpepper; Cartersville PD; Chief Stan Bradley, Emerson PD; Dee Corson, GDOT; Daniel Hester, GDOT HERO; Russell McDaniel, Air Life Georgia; Tommy Gentry, Bartow County Animal Control; Jeremy Matthews, Matthews Towing Service; Matt and Rodney Martin, Martin's Wreckers; Rico Willis, Discount Towing; Larry Seabolt, Remtech Engineering; Scott Coburn, EPD; Jessica Prueett, Bartow County 911; and Shawn Teems, Bartow County EMS.



Winners of the 2010 TIME Saver Award

Special recognition was given to the champion of their TIM Team, Battalion Chief Ray King of Cartersville Fire Department. The TIME Task Force sincerely appreciates Ray's dedication to traffic incident management. Our roadways are safer because of his efforts.