



Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Henry County Police Department
97 Lake Dow Road
McDonough, Georgia 30252

January 18, 2011

Welcome – Chief Keith Nichols from the Henry County Police Department welcomed everyone and expressed how proud Henry County is to host the meeting. He praised his Specialty Traffic Unit and thanked Sergeant Randy Lee for his excellent leadership. In 1980, Henry County had a population of 60,000 people. Today, its population is 200,000. With 22 miles of interstate, they rely on teamwork to help with incident management.

Introductions and Overview – Brian Groover, TIME Task Force Vice Chair, thanked Henry County for hosting the meeting. He explained TIME's mission, purpose, strategic vision, and accomplishments. Brian emphasized the importance of partnership among all responders—no one can do it alone.

Commissioner Smith emphasizes partnership and teamwork, and TIM Teams are an excellent way to promote cooperation among different disciplines. To date, Bartow, Alpharetta, Gwinnett, Sandy Springs, Cobb, Clayton, and Atlanta have active TIM Teams. The TIME Task Force welcomes the opportunity facilitate TIM Team development in Henry County.

At present, the Task Force is developing statewide TIM Guidelines and a video that explains TRIP. DPS and GDOT are working toward signing an Open Roads Policy. In December, the board elected committee chairs for the next two-year term.

2011 Committee Chairs:

Communications – Dee Corson and Jerry Gossett

Training – Ryan Newman

Operations – Lonnie Blackstone

Programs – Carla Holmes

If anyone would like to volunteer to serve on a committee, they should see Christine Simonton.

Responding to Hydrogen Sulfide Suicides – Lonnie Blackstone of Rhino Services gave a presentation of hydrogen sulfide suicides, also commonly known as detergent suicides, which most commonly occur in vehicles. The instructions for this type of suicide are easily found on the Internet, and the ingredients can be bought in the grocery store, so it is gaining popularity. All responders in the Metro Atlanta area need to be familiar with these suicides and understand the protocol for dealing with them.

After giving a basic overview of typical ingredients, exposure, and effects, Lonnie reported on a hydrogen sulfide suicide that occurred in Douglas County in November of last year.

Responders should follow these steps at a hydrogen suicide scene:

- Survey the scene.
- Establish a “hot” zone.
- Do not rely on your sense of smell in a H₂S incident; your ability to smell may be lost within 3 – 5 minutes of exposure.
- Determine if you have proper PPE (SCBA).
 - If not, call for Haz-Mat team.
 - If so, put on your PPE, safely remove victim to fresh air.

Typically, victims of this type of suicide do not intend to hurt other people, so they will post a warning on their car windows. Do not take these warnings lightly; hydrogen sulfide is deadly.

Florida’s Specialty Towing and Roadside Repair Services (STARR) – Ted Smith from Delcan gave a report of the STARR program in Florida. Florida’s Turnpike created a light and medium duty program to assist in quick clearance. It is a fee-based, revenue-neutral program that averages a 20-minute response time on the Florida Turnpike. Rotational towing programs can be problematic, so the STARR program offers an alternative. The number one factor in this program is safety; the goals include zero fatalities, improved safety for responders and motorist, and reduction of crashes and secondary crashes.

Towing companies can bid on a section of the Turnpike; bidders establish their own base response times. Each contract is awarded for 1 year with up to three annual extensions. The program has detailed equipment requirements, and FDOT and FHP conduct performance reviews that determine each company’s continued program involvement. Aspects of STARR that make it successful and innovative include a complaint resolution process and established maximum fees.

The TIME Task Force might want to look at components of the STARR system that might work for Georgia. The STARR annual report is attached to these minutes.

Incident Debriefs – Daniel Hester, GDOT HERO and Lonnie Blackstone, Rhino Services

► I-85 @ Exit 96 (September 20, 2010): Emergency airplane Landing on Interstate

In DeKalb County, a small airplane made an emergency landing on the southbound side of I-85 in rush hour. Fortunately, no one was injured; cars saw the plane coming and managed to part so that the pilot had enough room to land. The HERO supervisor activated TRIP before he got to the scene. The responders opened up two lanes to let traffic through, and once the FAA agent arrived, he released the plane to get it off the roadway. This incident is an example of excellent teamwork.

► I-285 @ Cascade Rd and (January 12, 2011): TRIP Incident vs. Non-TRIP Incident

The first incident that Lonnie debriefed happened at 1:15 AM; a tractor trailer jackknifed, bounced off the dividing wall, and slid 200 feet, spilling diesel fuel. The TMC contacted Lonnie, and when he arrived, the driver was gone, Fulton County PD was leaving, 3 HEROs were on-scene, and the supervisor was on his way. The incident took 3.5 hours to clear; this is an example of a tractor trailer crash that should have been TRIP activated.

The second incident that Lonnie debriefed happened earlier in the day. Two tractor trailers jackknifed, and Southside was called to the scene. Good teamwork and efficient clearance made this an example of how TRIP incidents should work.

Atlanta Police Department Recognition – Deputy Chief Calvin Moss of Atlanta Police Department presented Gary Millsaps with an award for his years of service to GDOT.

Announcements

Randy Clayton from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety told the group that Governor Nathan Deal appointed Harris Blackwood as Director of GOHS. At the Strategic Highway Safety Plan meeting in December 2010, they adopted support of the Open Road Plan by endorsement and encourage Georgia's towns and counties to adopt ORP.

Rory Howe and Ted Smith from Delcan can offer tabletop exercises for vehicle placement training to TIM Teams. Anyone who is interested in hosting a training or starting a TIM team should let Christine know.

The next quarterly meeting will be in April; the TIME Task Force is always looking for quarterly meeting hosts.