Georgia's Traffic Incident Management TIMES

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

April 2011

Welcome!

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

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

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April 2011 Quarterly Meeting

Mark your calendars! The next TIME Task Force Quarterly Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19 from 10AM – 12PM at the TMC.

The meeting will feature presentations on:

- GDOT's new TMC software, NaviGAtor II
- TRIP benefit-cost study
- Advance Warning Training by GDOT HEROs
- After Incident Review

Immediately following the meeting, please make plans to attend a cookout in the TMC parking lot. You can eat lunch provided by our generous sponsors and get to know your fellow responders—some of whom you might not otherwise ever meet face-to-face!

Thank You, TIME Quarterly Sponsors

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Gresham, Smith & Partners
PBS&J/Atkins

Because the TMC is in a secure area, you must RSVP to attend. To register for the meeting, click here. Be sure to check the TIME website, www.timetaskforce.com, for more details.

Cherokee County Ghost Outs

Each spring, thanks to teamwork among dedicated Cherokee County responders, high school juniors and seniors receive sobering information about the dangers of drinking and driving. Ghost Out, an impaired-driver prevention program, gives students the opportunity to witness what a tragedy involving their own classmates could look like.

For the Ghost Out, student actors wear gruesome, realistic special effects makeup and crawl into wrecked cars. Their classmates are then called out into the parking lot, where the scene—including a frantic 911 call from a bystander—is set. The audience watches as Cherokee County responders arrive on scene and then attend to the passengers.

The victims all leave the incident in different ways: some in an air ambulance, some in body bags, and some handcuffs. The hope is that no one who walks away from a Ghost Out will ever forget the message.

Ghost Out at Etowah High School in Woodstock

Without the help of Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services (including their chaplain team), Mauldin Body Shop, Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, Cherokee Coroner, and Air Life Georgia, the Ghost Out would not be possible. Thanks to all of these responders for helping make our roadways safer.

FHWA Self Assessment Available to TIM Teams

Metro Atlanta TIM Teams who want to formally assess their programs and identify opportunities for improvement can perform an FHWA Traffic Incident Management Self Assessment. This tool can help TIM teams determine how successful they are at managing traffic incidents effectively and safely.

The assessment consists of questions covering three main TIM program areas:

- Strategic – formal policies and understandings among agencies
- Tactical – on-scene response and clearance practices, traffic control, and responder and motorist safety
- Support – interagency communications, data sharing, ITS, and traveler information

For more information, or to schedule a Self Assessment for your TIM Team, contact Rory Howe at r.howe@delcan.com.

Looking Ahead…

The Georgia Traffic Incident Management Guidelines will be available soon.

The Open Roads Policy, an agreement between the Georgia Department of Public Safety, and the Georgia Department of Transportation, is in its final stages.

Production of a video that explains TRIP will begin soon. To meet the company who is developing the video, be sure to attend the TIME Quarterly Meeting on April 19th. All responders are encouraged to wear their uniforms.

Meeting Recap: January 2011 TIME Quarterly

On January 18, the Henry County Police Department hosted the TIME quarterly meeting. Chief Keith Nichols welcomed the nearly 70 attendees and expressed how proud Henry County was to host the meeting.

After an introduction and updates from GDOT HERO's Brian Groover, Lonnie Blackstone from Rhino Services gave a presentation of hydrogen sulfide suicides, which all responders in the metro area need to be familiar with. Ted Smith from Delcan gave a report of Florida's light- and medium-duty Specialty Towing and Roadside Repair Services (STARR) program. This fee-based, revenue-neutral program averages a 20-minute response time on the Florida Turnpike. After Lonnie Blackstone and Daniel Hester shared incident debriefs with the group, Deputy Chief Calvin Moss of APD presented Gary Millsaps with an award for his years of service to GDOT.

APD Deputy Chief Calvin Moss

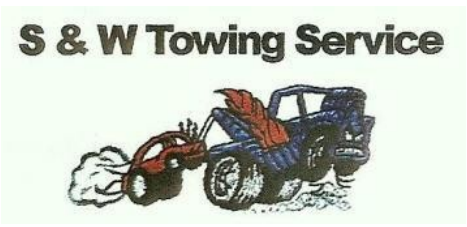
For more information about the January Quarterly Meeting, including meeting minutes and PowerPoint presentations, visit http://timetaskforce.com/archivemeeting.html.

TRIP Spotlight: S&W Towing Service

This month's TRIP spotlight is on S&W Towing Service. Family-owned and operated for nearly 30 years, S&W opened in 1982 and now has 35 employees and two yards in metro Atlanta.

According to general manager Roosevelt Green, who has been in the towing and recovery industry for 20 years, S&W's most memorable incident was the Bluffton University bus accident in 2007. A chartered motor coach carrying members of the Bluffton University baseball team en route from Ohio to Florida lost control on an overpass and fell onto I-75. This tragedy, which occurred before the inception of TRIP, serves as a reminder of the critical importance of incident management.

The TIME Task Force is grateful to S&W for their years of service to metro Atlanta.



Dollars and Sense

An independent study recently released by the GDOT TMC calculated the cost benefit of TRIP, from inception to the end of 2009, as $9,153,431 of avoided delay, wasted fuel, and excess emissions. The average savings per incident is $456,216. With a benefit-cost ratio of 11 to 1, TRIP saves nearly $11 for every dollar invested. Click here to see the published study.

Remembering Fallen HERO Spencer Pass

A memorial fund in honor of Georgia Department of Transportation Highway Emergency Response Operator (HERO) Spencer Pass has been established through the Bank of America. Mr. Pass, 45, was tragically struck and killed in the line of duty Monday while assisting a stranded motorist on Interstate 85 in Atlanta.

Individuals and organizations wishing to assist Mr. Pass' family may contribute to the Spencer Pass Memorial Fund at any Bank of America branch.

Georgia DOT, its HERO Unit, and the Pass family wish to express their appreciation for the outpouring of condolences and concern they have received.

To express your condolences to Spencer Pass's wife and family members, do so in care of:

Dawn Gillman Pass
P.O. Box 741566
Riverdale, GA 30274

To express your condolences to Spencer's HERO Unit colleagues, do so in care of:

Highway Emergency Response Operators (HERO) Headquarters
515 Plasters Avenue NE
Atlanta, GA 30324