



# SHRP2 TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT RESPONDER TRAINING

**Traffic incidents, including crashes, disabled vehicles and debris on the road, create unsafe situations; put motorists, and responders' lives at risk; and account for approximately 25 percent of all traffic delays. For each minute that a freeway travel lane is blocked during peak use, an estimated 4 minutes of delay result after the incident is cleared. This estimate accounts for 4.2 billion hours per year in delays. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Transportation Strategic Plan Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 – FY2015 reports that Americans burn more than 2.8 billion gallons of gasoline every year while stuck in incident-related traffic.**



In response to Congress' directive to improve the efficiency and safety of the U.S. highway system, The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is offering the first national, multi-disciplinary traffic incident management (TIM)

process and training program. The unique training for first responders promotes a shared understanding of the requirements for safe, quick clearance at traffic incident scenes; prompt, reliable and open communications; and motorist and responder safeguards. Governors, transportation leaders and incident response agencies across the country can save lives, time and money by promoting the full-scale deployment of the innovative TIM training program.

The TIM training program focuses on a response effort that protects motorists and responders while minimizing the impact on traffic flow. TIM efforts include detecting, verifying and responding to incidents; clearing the incident scene; and restoring traffic flow.

Using a multiple-discipline perspective, first responders within States, regions and localities learn how to operate more efficiently and collectively. The training covers many topics including recommended TIM procedures and techniques. For example, first responders learn how the placement of response vehicles and traffic

control devices can either aid or impede responder and motorist safety, and can impact how quickly traffic flow can be restored.

Extensive research and testing have gone into the development of the TIM training program launched nationwide. Flexible delivery approaches allow trainers to customize the training for one or multiple disciplines or for a large or a small group. Trainers completing the Train-the-Trainer TIM program have provided overwhelmingly favorable responses, expressing much interest in promoting and recommending the training to others. Efforts are underway to encourage deployment of the TIM training program nationwide.

## BENEFITS

- ▶ **Saving Lives.** Better training leads to faster incident response and clearance. This means fewer secondary crashes result from the original incident and less exposure to moving traffic while the incident is resolved.
- ▶ **Saving Money.** Efficient response also saves money. In Atlanta, improved incident clearance practices reduced secondary crashes by 69 percent in 12 months, saving lives and more than \$1 million.
- ▶ **Saving Time.** Well-trained responders can cut clearance time in half, decreasing delays caused by incident-related congestion. Train-the-trainer courses help responders learn more quickly.



## CURRENT STATE OF THE PRACTICE

- ▶ TIM training helps improve traffic incident response. Better incident response improves the safety of responders and drivers, reduces crashes that occur because of incident-related congestion, decreases traffic delays caused by incidents, and can cut incident response time in half.
- ▶ Delivered in an intensive, 2-day course in single-lesson modules, the TIM First Responder Training includes:
  - Interactive seminars
  - Case study analysis
  - Tabletop role-play and scenarios
  - Field practicums that focus on the safety of responders and drivers, quick clearance and effective communications at traffic incident scenes.

## SUPPORT AND AVAILABLE TOOLS

To learn more about the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Transportation Operations Program, please visit: [www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/eto\\_tim\\_pse](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/eto_tim_pse).



For additional information, please contact:

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*Every Day Counts (EDC), a State-based initiative of FHWA's Center for Accelerating Innovation, works with State, local and private sector partners to encourage the adoption of proven technologies and innovations aimed at shortening and enhancing project delivery*

 U.S. Department of Transportation  
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