

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Increases Safety for First Responders in Texas

Michael A. Chacon, P.E., Division Director; Cathy Kratz, P.E., Deputy Division Director
Texas Department of Transportation, Traffic Safety Division



Effective Traffic Incident Management saves time, money and lives.

What is Traffic Incident Management?

First responders must act quickly to save lives and restore traffic flow in the immediate aftermath of traffic crashes. These brave public servants, including law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services (EMS), TxDOT and emergency communications personnel, often put their own lives in danger to ensure the survival of crash victims and the safety for the traveling public. TxDOT Traffic Incident Management (TIM) training equips first responders with the skills they need to work together to quickly and safely clear traffic incidents. The goal of first responder training is expressed in the motto, "Everybody Goes Home."



Benefits to Agencies

Benefits of TIM to first responders include:

- Responder Safety – Training is proven to save lives and responder injuries.
- Value – Training is free to first responder agencies.
- Convenience – Training is conducted at agency locations by trainers.
- Expandable – Opportunities to have agency personnel certified as trainers through a Train-the-Trainer program.
- Morale – Reinforces the message that the safety of first responders is a top priority.



TIM Training Opportunities for First Responder Agencies

TIM supports the national unified goals for first responder safety, prompt, reliable, interoperable communications, and quick and safe clearance of the crash scene. Training opportunities include:

- 4-Hour TIM Training.
- 12-hour TIM Train-the-Trainer Course.
- High-Tension Cable Barrier Training
- Unique Hazards and Considerations with Electric Vehicles (EVs).

TIM Responder Training Course Lesson Summary:

- Introduction: TIM training program purpose, the dangers encountered by emergency responders working in or near traffic, and the definition of TIM.
- TIM Fundamentals and Terminology: safe, quick clearance definition, supporting legislation, and common response terminology.
- Notification and Scene Size-Up: roles and responsibilities of public safety communications centers and transportation management centers, and scene size-up reporting.



- Safe Vehicle Positioning: safe positioning of vehicles and blocking.
- Scene Safety: emergency vehicle markings, emergency-vehicle lighting, use of high-visibility safety apparel, and safe practices for avoiding the Zero Buffer.
- Command Responsibilities: Incident Command System as it relates to TIM.
- Temporary Traffic Control: components of a Traffic Incident Management Area and the proper use of temporary traffic control devices.
- Special Circumstances: incidents involving vehicle fires, hazardous materials, vehicle fluid spills, and crash investigations.
- Clearance and Termination: quick clearance strategies, towing and recovery communications, and incident termination.

