

## Q4 2024 NEWSLETTER

### QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT

Every two years, the Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) Task Force holds its conference to bring together traffic incident management (TIM) professionals across the region to learn, share, and network with the aim of improved coordination across the state. One of the most exciting aspects of the conference is the Awards Banquet, where seven TIM professionals who have dedicated their careers to TIM and have made a significant impact on the industry are honored with respective awards. The task force seeks nominations from the TIM industry throughout Georgia, and we're always amazed by the talent and dedication of our nominated TIM professionals.

At the recent conference, the awards banquet took place on Tuesday, October 15, 2024. The awards presented were the Gary Millsaps Award, TIM Individual of the Year, TIM Team of the Year, CHAMP Operator of the Year, HERO Operator of the Year, TMC Operator of the Year, and TRIP Tower of the Year.



*Photo courtesy of the TIME Task Force*

### WELCOME!

*In this edition:*

Lessons Learned

Training Updates

GDOT Employee of the Quarter

Regional TIM Team of the Quarter

Innovation of the Quarter

GDOT's Ahead of the Curve Podcast

Check out the [TIME Task Force Awards video](#) to hear what the winners had to say about their awards!



Most notably was the Gary Millsaps Award, which is a lifetime achievement award that honors an individual who has shown exemplary dedication and contribution to TIM efforts in Georgia and within their agency.

We are proud to congratulate the following winners!

**The Gary Millsaps Award:**  
Ray King, AtkinsRéalis

**TIM Individual of the Year:**  
Lt. Scott Davis, Macon-Bibb  
Sheriff's Office

**TIM Team of the Year:**  
Region 9 TIM Team

**CHAMP Operator of the Year:**  
Zach Coward, AECOM

**HERO of the Year:**  
David Barnes, GDOT

**TMC Operator of the Year:**  
Kristy Brown, AECOM

**TRIP Tower of the Year:**  
Tommy Ray

Congratulations to all the award winners—they have made a tremendous impact on TIM in Georgia throughout the course of their careers, and we are grateful every day for their dedication and example! We hope these awards serve as a reminder to them that they play an important role in ensuring safe, quick clearance across Georgia. The industry wouldn't be what it is without its dedicated professionals.



**Gary Millsaps Award:**  
**Chief Ray King**



**TIM Individual of the Year:**  
**Lt. Scott Davis**



**TIM Team of the Year:**  
**Region 9 TIM Team**  
*Represented by Chief Shaun Raulston*



**CHAMP Operator of the Year:**  
**Zach Coward**



**HERO of the Year:**  
**David Barnes**



**TMC Operator of the Year:**  
**Kristy Brown**



**TRIP Tower of the Year:**  
**Tommy Ray**  
*Represented by Kim Taylor*

*Photos courtesy of the TIME Task Force*



# QUARTER 4 LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons learned are an essential part of accelerating Traffic Incident Management's (TIM) progress and success. Responders and agencies across Georgia should reflect on how the following takeaways from Q4 can be applied. Thank you to the teams that contributed to this article so we may improve by one incident and one lesson at a time.

## **Consistent Training Across Agencies**

### ***Confirm baseline knowledge***

A recent TIM Team meeting revealed that baseline knowledge and training for different agencies cannot be taken for granted. While discussing unified command, it was discovered that not every agency includes the incident command system (ICS) training in their basic training.

More widespread training would be enlightening when facing the challenges of implementing a unified command on the scene, especially given the shifts in command that should naturally occur during different incident phases, i.e., from fire to police, if appropriate. With some disciplines delivering incident command training to new recruits—and some going years without this training—the expectation of an easily established unified command between different agencies may need to be re-evaluated for scenes where the higher ranks have not yet arrived. Regardless of rank, everyone in all disciplines should understand and apply good, national unified command principles. More information about the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Incident Management System training may be found [here](#).

## **Continued Interagency Coordination**

### ***Value in the inclusion of secondary response agencies***

Each TIM responder agency contributes uniquely to the success of the scene. The ongoing efforts of each to reinforce established relationships across disciplines, to forge new connections, and to train together are vital to the continued readiness of responders across the public safety spectrum.

Communication, coordination, and cooperation amongst response agencies are critical for continued preparedness in incident management. But the importance of including secondary response agencies cannot be overstressed. A recent TIM Team meeting brought together local county DOT and GDOT staff who were able to effectively collaborate on various projects that affect both agencies.

Well-developed relationships between responding agencies optimize efficiency. At a minimum, they can contribute to the efficient use of resources at the scene and shorten roadway clearance times, which saves lives. This type of collaboration between primary responders and, for example, coroners/MEs is essential to TIM's mission. In a recent example, on-scene responders communicated directly with the coroner's office to share important information about the location and specific concerns of the event to prepare for the staff's arrival. Coroners/MEs represent another group that is critically important to the mission and should always be included in meetings and training opportunities. If you contact GDOT's assigned TIM Area Analyst ([info here](#)), they can assist with outreach to partner agencies. Send requests to [TIMteams@dot.ga.gov](mailto:TIMteams@dot.ga.gov).



*Photos courtesy of Renal via Getty Images*

# TRAINING UPDATES

## LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN (LERP) TRAINING

Two Livestock Emergency Response Plan (LERP) training sessions were held in Georgia in quarter four—one in Laurens County and one in Morgan County.

The Laurens County LERP Training was held on October 29, 2024, with help from the Laurens County UGA Extension Office and Chief Josh McCard of Laurens County Fire. The classroom portion of the class was hosted at the Laurens County Student Service Center in Dublin, Georgia. It was attended by members from a cross-section of disciplines including fire, emergency medical services, 911 dispatch, towing and recovery, and animal control. The hands-on portion of the course was held at the Laurens County Agricultural Complex at Southern Pines Recreation Complex.

The Morgan County LERP Training was held on November 7, 2024, and was coordinated with help from the Morgan County UGA Extension Office. The classroom portion was held at the Morgan County UGA Extension Office in Madison, Georgia, and the hands-on portion was held at the Morgan County Agricultural Complex. This training had attendees from various disciplines from multiple agencies across the region and also included large animal veterinarians and ranchers. Their perspectives on response to livestock emergencies were informative and added substantial value to the training for attendees.

Livestock emergencies on the roadway are a low-frequency, high-risk incident. Most responders have very little experience with this type of emergency, and many responders lack experience with livestock in general. The LERP curriculum prepares responders for this type of roadway incident. Livestock emergency incidents are complicated scenes that pose unusual risks to responders and travelers on the roads. GDOT regularly provides LERP training with sessions in the spring and fall each year. To date, over 830 persons who might respond to a livestock roadway incident have been trained throughout Georgia. They include law enforcement, fire rescue, emergency medical personnel, safety service patrol, animal control, E911 dispatchers, veterinarians, towing and recovery personnel, truck drivers, and more.

The six-hour class includes classroom instruction, which is followed by hands-on demonstrations in the afternoon including cattle and horses in an arena setting. Students are able to see LERP principles used in a live demonstration. Feedback for the class is very positive, and some attendees have been known to travel substantial distances to attend. Many inquire at the end of the class about bringing the training to their area for other responders to experience.

If you are interested in hosting a LERP training, or any other TIM training in your area, email [TIM\\_Training@dot.ga.gov](mailto:TIM_Training@dot.ga.gov).



*Photo courtesy of Jeff Cotter, Senior TIM Specialist, AtkinsRéalis*



# GEORGIA DOT EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER: CONGRATULATIONS, MICHAEL WILSON!

Congratulations to Michael Wilson of HERO, GDOT's employee of the quarter!

GDOT's HERO program is made possible by the dedicated operators who bravely serve Atlanta's highway motorists, day and night. One of these operators, Michael Wilson, was recently recognized with the HERO Alpha Operator of the Quarter Award. His supervisor, Cody Warren, stated that he received this honor because of "his continued dedication to our unit mission, his commitment to the motoring public, and his constant perseverance when faced with personal and professional hurdles."



Photo courtesy of GDOT's HERO Program

Cody also noted that Michael arrives to work with a "go get 'em" attitude and consistently motivates other team members. Michael has also had the top number of assists in a month several times and regularly returns from a shift with the most calls in a day. At the time of this article, Michael had completed 2,795 assists! It is not just Michael's positive attitude that sets him apart, but also his hard work and dedication to his role.

When interviewed, Michael had this to say about receiving this award:

*What do you like most about working for HERO?*

"Working with the community and fellow HERO operators makes me feel like I've achieved something every day. I enjoy serving the citizens of Georgia and helping people. My heart and soul is in this job and I dedicate every day on the job to doing my best and keeping the motoring public safe."

*How did being presented with the "Operator of the Quarter" award make you feel?*

"It made me feel really good! I was overwhelmed with joy and happiness to know that my hard work and dedication had been recognized. It showed that I'm not just a badge number, but a member of a truly great team and organization."

*What do you see your future at HERO being like?*

"At this point I plan on staying here for the long term and hopefully retiring from HERO. I want to help pass my knowledge down to others and hopefully plan on taking on more of a mentorship role. The possibilities are endless, and I plan on continuing to learn as much as I can."

Thank you, Michael, for your hard work in the HERO program and for your dedication to keeping Atlanta's highways safe. From assisting motorists to supporting responders at incident scenes, the HERO program owes its success to the operators who bravely rise to the occasion every day.

# REGIONAL TIM TEAM OF THE QUARTER: CONGRATULATIONS, HENRY COUNTY!



*Photo courtesy of Bill Voorhies, Senior TIM Specialist, AtkinsRéalis*

We are delighted to announce that the Henry County Traffic Incident Management Team is the TIM Team of the Quarter for Q4 of 2024. It is comprised of responding agencies and entities operating in greater Henry County, as well as the cities of Hampton, Locust Grove, McDonough, and Stockbridge.

The Henry County TIM Team works diligently to address traffic concerns within Henry County, especially along their stretch of Interstates 75 and 675. Any review of traffic data within Georgia reveals the Henry County I-75/I-675 corridor as one of the hotbeds for stalls, collisions, and congestion. But the Henry County TIM Team's dedication to improving roadway response is not limited to the interstates, as they collaborate and share strategies for all of Henry County's roadways.

The team's dedication to "safe efficient clearance" is demonstrated by the fact that the team voluntarily chose to increase their meeting schedule in order to meet monthly. Where most TIM Teams within Georgia meet quarterly, Henry County's TIM Team meets three times as often, resulting in more critical analysis, discussion, and collaboration.

All team members passionately work together to improve safety and efficiency as part of their response. Solutions and strategies developed in the meeting are implemented on the roadway incidents, and Henry County's responders, as well as the travelling public, directly benefit from their efforts.



# INNOVATION OF THE QUARTER

## DebrisClear

In December 2024, IC Innovations, LLC demonstrated their new DebrisClear System at both the Wayne County Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team Meeting and the Liberty County TIM Team Meeting. Meeting attendees watched a live-action demonstration of how this vehicle-mounted front bumper system can improve the safety for all vehicles on the roadway by clearing road debris from the travel lanes without responders having to exit their vehicle. The system includes intuitive in-cab controls that allow operators to quickly deploy and stow the system, enabling a more streamlined and safe debris-clearing process than traditional hands-on methods.

Response vehicles utilizing the DebrisClear System can capture debris weighing up to 150 lbs. at speeds up to 20 mph. The system is also equipped with dual cameras for enhanced visibility of the hazard for the operator and a low-profile clearing design. Made in the USA, IC Innovations champions it as a durable, cost-effective solution that reduces accidents and improves traffic flow.

If you want to learn more from IC Innovations about how this technology can benefit responders, please visit [icinnovationsllc.com/debrisclear](https://icinnovationsllc.com/debrisclear).

Do you have a product or service you would like to share at TIM Team meetings in Georgia? Reach out to [TIMteams@dot.ga.gov](mailto:TIMteams@dot.ga.gov).



*Video Courtesy of IC Innovations*





Photo courtesy of IC Innovations



# GDOT'S AHEAD OF THE CURVE PODCAST

GDOT spearheads a multitude of impressive programs and employs some of the state's top talent to do so. It can be hard to keep up with important names and innovations throughout the state. To help keep those involved in (or simply interested in!) the transportation industry, GDOT started the Ahead of the Curve Podcast, hosted by Natalie Dale.

This show, now in its third season, highlights GDOT's fast-growing programs, top talent, and important safety advice for all Georgia motorists. In their own words, "The Ahead of the Curve Podcast provides listeners with insight into the employees, programs, projects, and activities that make Georgia DOT one of the best transportation agencies in the country."

Curious to learn more about statewide and local transportation? You may enjoy:

- Season 1, Episode 5: Metro Atlanta Express Lanes
- Season 1, Episode 12: Hyperlocal Transportation Innovation

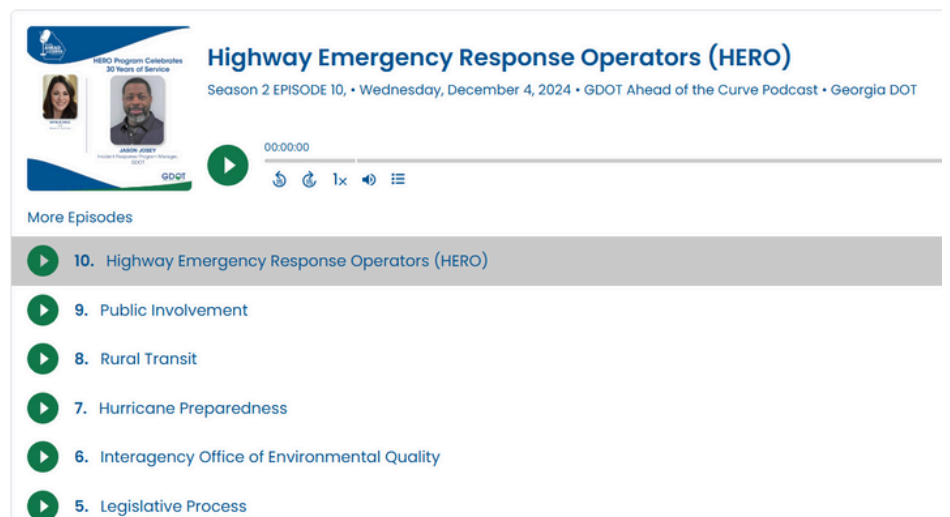
Interested in response efforts across the state? Check out:

- Season 2, Episode 7: Hurricane Preparedness
- Season 2, Episode 10: Highway Emergency Response Operators (HERO)

Are environmental efforts at the forefront of your mind? Consider:

- Season 2, Episode 6: Interagency Office of Environmental Quality
- Season 2, Episode 3: Georgia Department of Natural Resources Partnership

No matter what interests you under the GDOT umbrella, you are sure to find episodes to help you dive deeper and to pique new interests, too. Be sure to check out this fascinating series online, or on most major podcast platforms. Happy listening!



*Photo courtesy of GDOT's Ahead of the Curve Podcast*



Photo courtesy of Marvin Riggins, Senior TIM Specialist, AtkinsRéalis

## UPCOMING EVENTS

For the latest information on training in your area, please check the [TIME Task Force calendar](#) or scan the QR code below to visit the website. NOTE: all dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Monitor the website calendar to verify before you travel to a meeting.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN A TIM TEAM



There are many ways to be active in TIM around Georgia. Interested in getting involved and attending a meeting? Visit [the TIME Task Force website](#) or scan the QR code to find your regional TIM Team and area analyst and contact [TIMteams@dot.ga.gov](mailto:TIMteams@dot.ga.gov) for more information.



Photo courtesy of Scott Malcolm, Senior TIM Specialist, AtkinsRéalis

## INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEWSLETTER?

Share an innovation your agency is implementing in your local community or a notable effort in traffic incident management.

## LMS INFORMATION

GDOT's learning management system (LMS) provides a free online centralized hub for registered users to have full access to and management of their training content. You can do things like view the course catalog, enroll in courses, track progress, and view and download your course completion certificates.

We invite first responders and the TIME Task Force community to experience the platform firsthand. We have over 6,000 users, 39 courses available, and 24/7 access.

The LMS portal has training content in the areas of National Incident Management Systems (NIMS), National TIM Responder Training, TIM, professional development, and much more. These will be readily accessible to you by a quick login to the LMS platform after your user profile has been created.

Happy Learning!

**To enjoy user benefits and create your account, please email us at [TIM\\_Training@dot.ga.gov](mailto:TIM_Training@dot.ga.gov).**