

Georgia Traffic Incident Management Program



Q1 2025 NEWSLETTER



Warner Robins Fire Department after National TIM Responder Training

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT

Georgia's statewide Traffic Incident Management (TIM) program has seen a resurgence in recent months, with numerous brand new and refreshed TIM Teams engaging in all four TIM areas of the state. TIM stakeholders and responders from all 159 counties in Georgia are advocating about safe, quick clearance, which all disciplines hear the message loudly and clearly. There are incoming requests for TIM training and TIM Team meetings on a seemingly daily basis, with calls for support resonating from regions ... previously only a distant blip on the outreach radar.

The Georgia Department of Public Health's renewed commitment to ensuring that all the state's EMS providers have completed the TIM training has likely contributed to the increase of requests. But beyond the training mandate, the commitment of our stakeholders to decrease Georgia's responder struck-by numbers has also created urgency to inform and engage everyone.

WELCOME!

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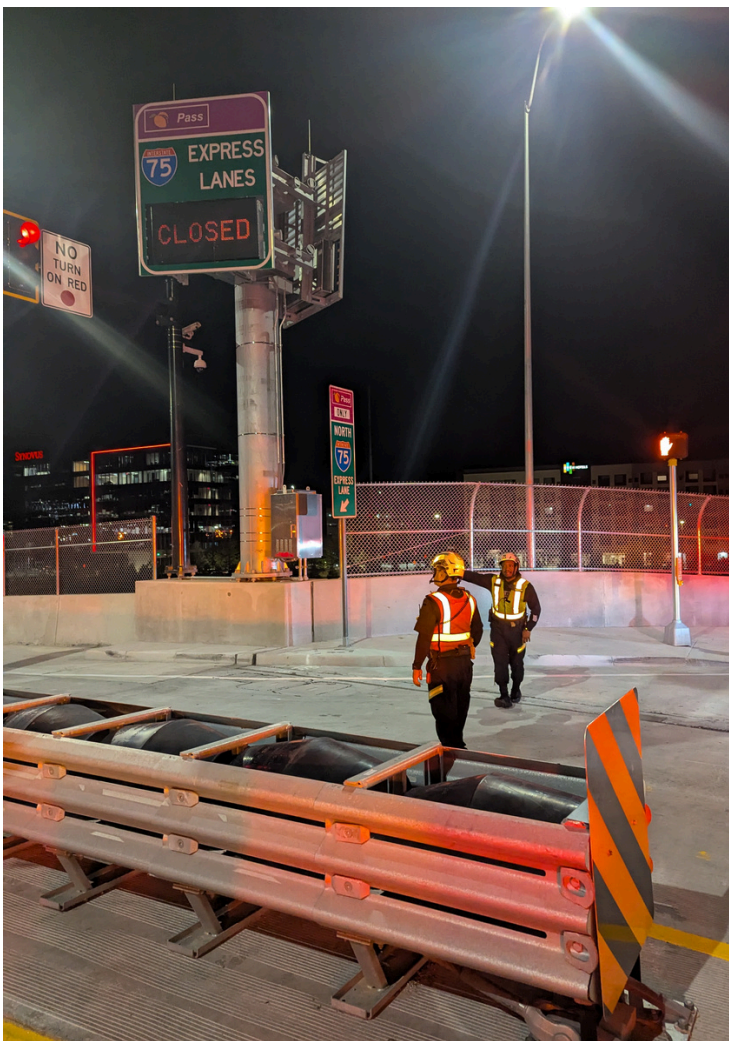


HERO Trainees observe as Cobb County Fire Rescue demonstrates vehicle extrication practices

Outreach efforts have yielded new commitments to responder safety through the development of TIM Teams in Burke, Seminole, Murray, White, and Clayton Counties, just to name a few. And some of the state's long-running TIM Teams, such as Bartow, DeKalb, Cherokee, Bibb, and Chatham Counties, have renewed their commitments to protecting our incident responders, and the motoring public.

A brand new fourth version of the National TIM Responder Training was delivered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in September 2024, and a dedicated team of Georgia's lead instructors and key leaders from our TIM program worked diligently to create a Georgia version of the course that debuted in December. The concepts and tactics that are taught in the training apply to every incident responder regardless of whether they work on interstate highways or rural two-lane roads in the most remote areas of the state.

Georgia's TIM program is thriving. The FHWA's training statistics consistently put us in the top five amongst all states and U.S. territories in numbers trained—and number one in active TIM Teams. If you are not already involved, reach out to TIMteams@dot.ga.gov and ask how to join a TIM Team near you. To get your agency or municipality on the TIM training schedule, reach out to TIM_training@dot.ga.gov. Getting involved in the TIM program promotes the safety of your local responders and folks who use roads in your neighborhood. Even just one less struck-by statistic to report is well worth the effort.



HERO Master Operator Training



Richmond Hill National TIM Responder Training



Bartow County TIM Team Meeting

QUARTER 1 LESSONS LEARNED AFTER INCIDENT REVIEW

Improving Communication on Towing and Recovery Incident Program (TRIP) Activations

During a Q1 Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team Meeting, several law enforcement officers suggested an improvement to the process of activating TRIP. Officers reported that when they activate TRIP, they contact the Transportation Management Center (TMC). However, they report that they do not receive follow-up communication from the TMC, confirming that the call has been TRIP'd or which towing and recovery company is responding.



Photo courtesy of tillsonburg via Getty Images

Their suggestion was that the TMC, once they have contacted the designated TRIP tower, should then call back the responder who activated TRIP and provide confirmation and the name of the towing and recovery company that is responding. Members of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), who were present, liked the idea and said they would show it to leadership for serious consideration. This is another example of TIM Team Meetings providing effective feedback and subsequent changes to ongoing processes.

Tending to Relationships Between Responders

Establishing relationships prior to incidents on the roadway is an effective strategy for increasing safety and efficiency at incident scenes. The format of the TIM Team Meeting specifically encourages cross-jurisdictional and interagency conversations, allowing agencies to better cooperate and communicate on scene of an incident.

However, TIM Team Meetings are not the only opportunity to strengthen our professional relationships. Sometimes, it comes down to our mindsets. Almost all responders have had a negative interaction with another responder, and many let that negative interaction represent the entire agency. However, we have all had bad days, whether it be our first day on the job or things going on in our personal lives that affect our mood at work.

So, when you have a negative interaction with another responder, give them a little grace. A single negative interaction could be the exception and not indicative of an agency, jurisdiction, or type of responder. It is crucial to maintain a cooperative mindset and to help us improve our safety and efficiency strategies at incident scenes.

TRAINING UPDATES

HERO EXTRICATION TRAINING

One of the best strategies for increasing coordination among agencies operating at roadway incidents is to establish relationships prior to an emergency response. This collaboration can increase a responder's understanding of what other responders' needs are on scene, which leads to improved safety and more efficient clearance along roads.

To this end, in January of 2025, a large class of HERO Recruits were introduced to vehicle extrication practices. With Barrow Wrecker Service's Jason Davis, who supplied the vehicle to be cut up, and Cobb County Fire Rescue's Heavy Rescue, soon-to-be HERO Operators were introduced over an hour-long demonstration to the rigors of what's involved when Fire Rescue has to cut a vehicle away to access someone trapped within.

Students could observe just how much space is required to position tools—and the responders operating them—around a crashed vehicle. As they watched the vehicle get cut into much smaller parts, the Fire Rescue crew explained each step during the demonstration. This invaluable education will become essential in the future when these soon-to-be HERO Operators are on scene of a crash with entrapment and can better anticipate lane closures that will be necessary for Fire Rescue to affect a rescue. Additionally, Cobb County's Heavy Rescue responders built a stronger relationship with HERO as a result of this close exposure to these HERO Recruits.

The students toured the highly specialized Heavy Rescue apparatus, and they received a brief introduction about capabilities of the apparatus that extend beyond roadway incidents. Feedback from the session was enthusiastic and unanimous, and the students all found the demonstration very engaging and informative.



HERO Trainees observe as Cobb County Fire Rescue demonstrates vehicle extrication practices

TIM TEAM MEMEBR OF THE QUARTER

RYAN MORRISON

Henry County TIM Team

The TIME Task Force congratulates Ryan Morrison as the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team Member of the Quarter. Ryan is the Director of Henry County Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Before being appointed as the Director of Henry County Emergency Management and Homeland Security, he worked as a Firefighter, Paramedic, and Tactical Medic in neighboring Clayton County; experience which he finds useful in his current position as he works to discover, "new ways to tackle a plethora of threats and hazards."



Photo courtesy of Ryan Morrison, Henry County

One of those hazards involves more than 20 miles of the interstate in Henry County—it is one of the most highly trafficked sections of road in the State of Georgia. Director Morrison says vehicle crashes that cause delays in this area typically result in secondary crashes, producing further delays and increased congestion on surface streets. Additionally, a section of the interstate in Henry County is a main corridor for trucks to transport goods throughout Atlanta. Director Morrison says the impacts to traffic flow can "result in preventing critical goods from being delivered in a timely manner and affecting the supply chain and our local economy." He adds that safe, quick clearance from roadway incidents also ensures emergency responders are available for other emergencies within Henry County.

For Director Morrison, the greatest benefit of the TIM Team Meetings is "to familiarize ourselves with all the players during a major traffic event. Understanding key roles and responsibilities of responding agencies helps us ensure efficiency on scene." The rapport he describes is a core component of the TIM Team Meeting strategy for all teams across the state.

As he continues to work to protect Henry County from numerous threats, Director Morrison helps with the planning and strategizing at the federal, state, and local levels to mitigate traffic challenges affecting Henry County and surrounding counties. He cites, as one of his greatest professional accomplishments, his work with Clayton County on floodwater hazard mitigation; work which resulted in a \$24 million grant award. Ryan Morrison's involvement with Henry County's TIM Team demonstrates his personal—as well as Henry County's—commitment to safe, quick clearance. Congratulations to Ryan Morrison, the TIM Team Member of the Quarter for 2025!

TIM TEAM OF THE QUARTER: CONGRATULATIONS, TOOMBS- MONTGOMERY COUNTY!



City of Vidalia Fire Department, Toombs County

Congratulations to the Toombs/Montgomery County TIM Team on being named TIM Team of the Quarter! TIM Team Champions Lynn Moore (Toombs County EMA) and Chief Brian Sikes (Vidalia Fire) have been instrumental in organizing and facilitating various Traffic Incident Management (TIM) activities to include meetings and hosting the National TIM Responder Training. The Toombs/Montgomery County TIM Team diligently works to ensure responders remain safe on roads, and that they are aware of the latest in technology and information. For example, they have ensured that responders in the region are aware of the upcoming testing of the automated EV rail car, designed by [Parallel Systems](#), that will be tested throughout Toombs County.

Recently, at a Toombs/Montgomery County TIM Team meeting, a representative from the Georgia State Patrol discussed House Bill 1193 which made significant changes to when the use of flashing amber lights is appropriate. These changes are not well known within public safety and the towing and recovery community. That is why it was instrumental in bringing in professionals who could provide clarification for responders. Also, a representative from 911 Rapid Response out of Conyers presented the next generation lighting technologies from Whelen Manufacturing. Thank you, Toombs/Montgomery County TIM Team, for your efforts in promoting industry collaboration to help keep your roads safe for responders and motorists alike. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

INNOVATION OF THE QUARTER

Full Circle Lithium's FCL-X™

Electric vehicles (EV) have been growing in prominence in the automotive market since 2015. Today, there are over 4.1 million EVs in the United States including all-electric and hybrid varieties. With over 90,000 registered, Georgia ranks among the states with the highest number of EVs.

Georgia's first responders are increasingly called to mitigate automobile accidents involving EVs. Particularly challenging are fires associated with the lithium-ion battery systems that are at the core of EV technology. EV fires burn hotter and longer than fires in conventional combustion vehicles. They can reach a state of thermal runaway—an uncontrolled and dangerous process where a battery cell's temperature continually rises leading to stronger fire and possible explosion, which is unique to EVs.

There have been many proposed solutions to the EV fire “problem,” but the lack of a strong viable solution to the EV fire problem leads to longer duration incidents on the roadway, exposure of responders to additional hazards, and negative environmental impact from the runoff associated with extinguishment.

Full Circle Lithium (FCL) is a Georgia-based company that has developed a new technical water-based fire suppression agent specifically designed for lithium-ion battery fires that they claim neutralizes the chemical reactions within the battery cells. Their innovative and proprietary approach shows promise, and for this reason they are our Innovation of the Quarter. FCL pledges that their portable FCL-X product can reduce the amount of water needed to extinguish the fire, reduce the toxic gas emissions, and prevent thermal runaway – all things that can benefit responders.

FCL's representatives are available throughout the state to discuss and demonstrate their product. They have presented at Traffic Incident Management Team meetings across the state. Learn more on the [Full Circle Lithium website](#).

Watch a demonstration on [YouTube here](#), or scan the QR code below.



Watch a demonstration on YouTube!



NATIONAL TIM RESPONDER TRAINING

The National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Training course is the cornerstone of TIM training in Georgia aimed at improving responder safety and quick clearance of the roads. The first quarter of 2025 saw the course offered an incredible 37 times across the state! That is 148 hours of TIM training—engaging about 290 responders.

The National TIM Responder Training curriculum is developed at the federal level, and the newest version of that course was released in 2024. The Georgia TIME Task Force modified the presentation slightly while remaining specific to Georgia's responders (e.g., Georgia-specific responder photos and videos), and the updated course is being received exceptionally well.

While the course is also available to responders online, in-person training lets instructors discuss TIM principles, strategies, and tactics with students. These personal interactions, which often involve responders' stories that reinforce the need for better TIM practices, drive the course's message home for students. And the large number of classes requested and delivered in this first quarter strongly suggests that training officers across the state recognize that their students learn better by in-person delivery.

Many of the previously trained Instructors across the state are receiving the updated curriculum, ensuring the delivery of the National TIM Responder Training continues to expand within Georgia.

If you would like to request in-person delivery of this training to your organization or agency, please contact TIM_Training@dot.ga.gov.



Bartow County National TIM Responder Training

TIME TASK FORCE 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A Board of Directors oversees the TIME Task Force, which represents various industries and agencies across the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) industry. Committee chair elections happened at the end of 2024, along with a few other new appointments, making up the new 2025 Board of Directors.

The TIME Task Force welcomes Kim Williams, GDOT TMC Manager, who joins the board as GDOT's TMC Chair and Tyrone McCord III of GDOT HERO, who joins as the board's new Co-Chair. The former Co-Chair, Jason Josey of GDOT, remains on the board as GDOT's Georgia TIM Chair after his promotion to Georgia Incident Management Program Manager. Additionally, Nita Birmingham of GDOT, is the new Communications Committee Chair.

Returning as committee chairs are

- Rodney Pickle of AECOM CHAMP as Operations Committee Chair
- Requel Williams of AECOM TMC as Programs Committee Chair
- Chief Shaun Raulston of the City of Buena Vista Fire Department as Training Committee Chair.

The Board of Directors is excited for the year ahead, as each of their unique perspectives contributes to enhancing TIM within Georgia.

[View the updated organization chart.](#)

[View the photo gallery for this event.](#)



2025 TIME Task Force Board



Heavy Wrecker Technical Rescue Training for Responders

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 for more information.



National TIM Responder Training

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 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.