

## Q1 2026 NEWSLETTER



Emanuel Co TIM Team Kick-Off Meeting

### QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT

TIM Teams are regionally focused and meet regularly to discuss local initiatives, lessons learned, and innovations. There are 57 active TIM Teams spread across Georgia, which is the most of any state in the country. But there are areas of Georgia where a larger more regional team may split into multiple teams. This can be due to the number of people coming to a meeting, the volume of incidents in an area, or simply a county's request to have their own team. In Quarter 1, local leaders in several parts of the state collaborated with their TIM area analyst to develop and create new TIM Teams.

- The Emanuel County TIM Team in Area 3 had their kick-off meeting on January 26, championed by Courtney Terwillger, Emanuel County's public safety coordinator.
- A new Gordon County TIM Team was formalized in March and will have its first meeting in April. Assistant Chief Byron Sutton of Gordon County Fire and Rescue, who has regularly attended meetings of the Cartersville-Bartow TIM Team, was instrumental in creating the new Gordon County TIM Team.

### WELCOME!

*In this edition:*

- Quarterly Highlight
- Training Updates
- TIM Team Member of the Quarter
- TIM Team of the Quarter
- Innovation of the Quarter
- LMS Info

- A new Floyd County TIM Team was set to have its kick-off meeting but was delayed due to some local obligations that took priority for Floyd County responders.

Congratulations to these new TIM Teams and thank you to everyone who has played a role in establishing them! When local responders collaborate on their efforts, roads become safer for all. Are you interested in starting a TIM Team in your area? Reach out to [TIMTeams@dot.ga.gov](mailto:TIMTeams@dot.ga.gov).

# TRAINING UPDATES

## HEAVY WRECKER TECHNICAL RESCUE TRAINING FOR RESPONDERS



*Bulloch County Heavy Wrecker Technical Rescue Training for Responders*

The first quarter of 2026 saw two installments of one of the TIM Program's most exciting trainings: Heavy Wrecker Technical Rescue Training for Responders. During this training, a local tow company provides demonstrations of their heavy wrecker capabilities through hands-on scenarios with available junk vehicles, emphasizing that heavy wreckers can be used as a rescue resource, not just a towing resource. This training utilizes multiple scenarios, including a school bus, dry freight tractor-trailer, and some unique vehicles like cement mixers, tanker trucks, car haulers, and more. Responders also get to hear from a rescue tool specialist on the capabilities and utilizations of various rescue tools.

The first training of the quarter was held on March 14 in Ringgold, Georgia, with Doug Yates Towing & Recovery, and the second training was held on March 28 in Bulloch County with Rahn's Wrecker Service and A&P Wrecker Service. At both trainings, the North America Fire Equipment Company, or NAFECO, sponsored lunch and had their rescue tool specialist there to help teach advanced techniques.

These trainings were attended by multiple fire rescue agencies and received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with many attendees emphasizing the necessity for this training across the state. One attendee detailed that he expected to sit in a classroom for most of the training but was blown away by the amount of hands-on training that was done.

Thank you to everyone involved in putting on these training sessions to help ensure responders are ready for whatever incident they may encounter on the roads. We have seen great success with the Heavy Wrecker Technical Rescue Training for Responders, and spots have filled up quickly each time a new session is posted. Do you want to have this training in your area? Reach out to [TIM\\_Training@dot.ga.gov](mailto:TIM_Training@dot.ga.gov).

# TIM TEAM MEMBER OF THE QUARTER CONGRATULATIONS, CAPTAIN COREY SUTTON!

The Cartersville-Bartow County TIM Team responders are routinely called to respond to Interstate 75 incidents. For the TIM Champion of that team, Cartersville Fire Captain Corey Sutton, the safety of responders on roadway incidents is always a concern. He stated, “The City of Cartersville and Bartow County strive for success through preparedness and a proactive approach.”



Although Captain Sutton has only been the Team’s TIM Champion for a short time, he has been involved with his department’s ongoing efforts to support TIM concepts and initiatives through his 14 years as a firefighter and fire officer. Captain Sutton says, “The TIME Task Force and TRIP Program have been a

priceless contribution,” and have provided “awareness and training that emphasize the importance of proper advanced warning, properly protecting a roadway incident, and properly predicting traffic hazards.” He further adds that it is the consistent training and application of good safety habits that have been successful in keeping personnel safe.

TIM Team meetings are an integral part of the ongoing and consistent approach. According to Captain Sutton they provide “opportunities to directly address issues, clear up confusion or miscommunication, and understand the resources and capabilities that each agency brings to the table.” This type of collaboration between city and county response agencies, GDOT, state patrol, Environmental Protection Agency, wrecker services, and others reduces roadway clearance times and, in some cases, “reduced delays in medical transport” for critical patients involved in complex vehicle crashes.

Captain Sutton says it well when he states:

“This program has always been common sense to me, and I have always seen the value it brings to serving our communities and us as responders. This is why I accepted being Bartow County’s TIMS Champion. It is my plan to continue the efforts and coordination that have made us all successful in providing the best service possible to our communities and the visitors who travel through them.”

# TIM TEAM OF THE QUARTER: CONGRATULATIONS, BRYAN COUNTY!

The Bryan County TIM Team is an excellent example of the collaboration that consistent TIM Team meetings bring to communities and their roadways. This TIM Team, championed by Lieutenant David Hicks of the Bryan County Sheriff's Office, holds regular meetings to discuss local initiatives and lessons learned. Topics from recent Bryan County TIM Team meetings include: the widening of I-16 and how this affects local traffic flow; a heavy wrecker overview; discussions on the new exit for the Hyundai plant that is being developed; and traffic issues the county faces and what improvements can be made.

Additionally, this TIM Team frequently pairs their meetings with a National TIM Responder Training session to help ensure that local responders have ample opportunity to update their training credentials. This is especially useful to local law enforcement, as the Sheriff's Office mandates that all their deputies stay up to date on this training—a standout requirement that is not usual for law enforcement agencies in the State of Georgia.

In its own initiative, Bryan County Fire Rescue is in the process of implementing National TIM Responder Training into their in-house fire academy. This commitment to training demonstrates a broader commitment to ensuring local TIM responders have the tools and knowledge needed to handle whatever incidents the roadways might present to them.

The Bryan County TIM Team demonstrates the progress that can be made when local responders and other TIM professionals collaborate on solutions to local issues and initiatives. Congratulations, Bryan County TIM Team! Keep up the great work.



*Bryan County TIM Team Meeting from February*

# INNOVATION OF THE QUARTER

## TRIP STALL ACTIVATION

The new Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP) Stall Activation event type has delivered extremely positive, measurable results. Since implementation in May of 2025, there have been 96 Stall Activations, with lanes cleared on average in just over 15 minutes from the Notice to Proceed. By comparison, the average lane clearance time for Full TRIP events in 2025 was 41 minutes. This change to the TRIP event classification is the first new event type added to the program since its inception in 2008.

The Stall Activation was developed in response to feedback from TRIP towers, safety service patrol, and Georgia DOT. Partners identified a need for a more streamlined response to commercial vehicles experiencing mechanical failures that are not the result of traffic incidents. These occurrences, while disruptive to traffic, typically do not require the full heavy recovery resources used for crash-related events.

Prior to this addition, all TRIP activations required a comprehensive response that included multiple heavy wreckers, a support vehicle with traffic control equipment, several certified operators, and a supervisor. Under the new Stall Activation procedure, TRIP towers now respond with a certified 50-ton heavy wrecker and a certified TRIP supervisor, ensuring safety and efficiency while matching resources to the incident's complexity.

The introduction of Stall Activations underscores the strength of collaboration among TRIP partners and reflects the program's ongoing commitment to improving traffic incident management across Georgia's roadway network.



*TRIP Stall Incidents from January*



Heavy Wrecker Technical Rescue Training for Responders

# 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.

## 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. Register for the event to receive email updates and monitor the website calendar to verify before travelling to a meeting.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN A TIM TEAM



Interested in TIM Team meetings or TIM training? Visit [the TIME Task Force website](#) or scan the QR code to learn more. Questions? Contact [TIMteams@dot.ga.gov](mailto:TIMteams@dot.ga.gov).

## LMS INFORMATION

GDOT's STIMS 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.

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](mailto:TIM_Training@dot.ga.gov).



National TIM Responder Training

Want to stay up to date with transportation news and trends from GDOT? Check out their [Ahead of the Curve Podcast!](#)

