

Why TIM Teams Work

A Case Study

In February 2007, the TIME Task Force After-Incident Review (AIR) Committee and the Atlanta Police Department hosted a meeting with a dual purpose:

- debrief a recent incident involving a full school bus, several cars and a fatality
- form the City of Atlanta Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team.

While forming the new group, the city's first responder agencies discussed quick clearance strategies, better communication, and setting up central command at the scene.

Just three days later, members of the new TIM Team rushed to the scene of an interstate accident involving many injuries and multiple fatalities. They worked together through the predawn hours to care for the victims, help smooth the ensuing morning commute, and open the roadway as quickly and safely as possible. The interstate was reopened in just over 4 hours, about half the time usually expected to clear such a major incident.

While debriefing this incident a few weeks later, all the responders credited forming the City of Atlanta TIM Team for their performance that day:

- Decisions regarding incident clearance were made in a quiet meeting room, rather than on a noisy freeway in the chaos of a major incident.
- This proactive approach enabled the responders to act upon arrival, rather than spend crucial minutes trying to coordinate their response.

TIM Teams promote

- Training
- Teamwork
- Trust

TIME Task Force Supporters include:



For more information about

- Joining the TIME Task Force
- Volunteering for a Committee
- Forming a TIM Team

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Metro Atlanta

TIME

Task Force

TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT Task Force

Working Together To Make
Metro Atlanta Roads
Open and Safe

Traffic Congestion and Its Effects

Since 2000, Atlanta has been the fastest-growing metro area in the nation. Over five million people live and work in the 28-county region. This dramatic growth continues to exceed the capacity of our highway system. The results are gridlock, pollution, reduced quality of life, and a greater risk of injury:

- More than half of all traffic congestion in the area is caused by non-recurring incidents such as crashes
- Metro congestion costs metro residents over 100 million hours of delay and over \$2 billion annually
- 43% of all police officers killed in the line of duty from 1997 to 2006 died in traffic-related incidents
- 18 firefighters died in traffic-related incidents in 2005



TIME Task Force Seeks Solutions

While it's impossible to predict incidents, it is essential to manage them correctly. The TIME Task Force was founded in 2002 to help metro first responders and related agencies work together to adopt "best practices" in incident management via:

- Developing a region-wide program to clear roadway incidents as quickly and safely as possible
- Promoting the "3 C's" - Communication, Coordination, and Cooperation



The Strategic Vision for Metro Atlanta

After polling its membership, representing all metro Atlanta jurisdictions as well as state and federal agencies, the TIME Task Force produced a set of priorities known as the *Metro Atlanta Traffic Incident Management Strategic Vision*. The Top 5 priorities:

- **Open Roads Policy:** establishing quick incident clearance as the overarching priority statewide
- **Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP):** monetary incentives to towing services for quick clearance of truck crashes
- **Formal Certification and Training for Towing and Recovery Operators**
- **Medical Examiner/Coroner MOU:** agreement among M.E.s and police to relocate the deceased for quicker incident clearance
- **TIM Teams:** Local agencies meeting regularly to decide incident response strategies and train together (*see "Why TIM Teams Work" panel*)

The Incident Management Portal: www.timtaskforce.com

The TIME Task Force website is designed to provide the best information available on incident management, including:

- The latest strategies and training exercises
 - "Your Vest Won't Stop This Bullet" and other videos about first responder safety
 - Open Roads Policies and other white papers
- News every agency and responder can use!

TIME Accomplishments

The TIME Task Force has accomplished great strides in helping responders work together:

- Formed 4 TIM Teams in Metro Atlanta
- After-Incident Review (AIR) Committee has debriefed major incidents in the region to foster "best practices" discussions among local responder agencies
- Sponsored several conferences that brought nationally recognized incident management experts to Georgia
- Hosted workshops to provide an incident management perspective during the design phase of major road projects
- Held simulations to provide first responders with advanced training and certification

Even the state and federal governments are getting involved. Governor Sonny Perdue has proclaimed "Incident Management Day in Georgia" each fall since 2003. TIME and other state transportation agencies are negotiating with the Governor's Office to implement a statewide Open Roads Policy for Georgia.

TIME: Marching On!

The TIME Task Force has come a long way in the past five years, but there's still much to be done to make metro Atlanta roads open and safe. Just a few of TIME's objectives include:

- Start TIM Teams throughout metro Atlanta
- Launch the TRIP program
- Change abandoned vehicle and towing liability policies
- Obtain the latest accident investigation technology for local jurisdictions
- Expand use of NIMS (National Incident Management Standards) to promote unified command at traffic incidents

Help us make Metro Atlanta's roads open and safe. Join the TIME Task Force.