



Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) Task Force of Georgia

2021 1st Quarter Newsletter
www.TIMETaskForce.com

TIME Task Force Board of Directors Elects New Co-Chairman

TIME Task Force is pleased to announce the appointment of Georgia State Patrol Captain Ritchie Howard as a new TIME Task Force Co-Chairman. Effective Feb. 3, 2021, Howard joined fellow Co-Chairman Jason Josey in their joint duties of promoting a greater understanding of quick clearance and effective traffic incident management across the state of Georgia.

Howard has stepped into the shoes of previous incumbent Captain Nikki Renfroe who honorably served TIME for nearly six and a half years. Renfroe made significant contributions to TIME in her position as Co-Chairwoman, and she will continue to support the organization's mission as an active member and participant.

"Capt. Ritchie comes with extensive military and law enforcement background," said Capt. Renfroe. "I have known him his entire career and have full confidence in his ability to take over my position as Co-Chair with TIME Task force...I believe in the work being done at TIME and plan to still be connected in some way."

Howard is currently Troop C Commander for Atlanta with the GSP, where overall he has served 25 years in various regions including Augusta, Madison and Griffin. Howard is dedicated to keeping Georgia roads safe and strives to bring this commitment to TIME.

"I'm excited to work with and learn from the bright minds in traffic incident management," said Howard. "I look forward to being a part of TIME and helping to ensure our mission reaches state-wide through education, networking and outreach."

Howard is a believer in teamwork and that everyone's opinion matters and is valued. In his free time, he enjoys reading biographies or non-fiction works.



Ritchie Howard, Captain

Georgia State Patrol

Welcome Capt.
Ritchie!



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Georgia Department of Transportation Launches New Learning Management System!



The Georgia Department of Transportation's Statewide Traffic Incident Management Systems program has launched a new Learning Management System (LMS), which is available to all statewide agencies.

With annual training efforts being halted due to the pandemic, the LMS provides a convenient platform with up-to-date information and easy access. This e-learning experience provides training content in a variety of areas including Towing and Recovery Incentive Program, Strategic Highway Research Program 2, National Incident Management System, Managed Lanes, Safety, Highway Emergency Response Operator, Coordinated Highway Assistance and Maintenance Program, Traffic Incident Management, Transportation Management Centers, and much more. The LMS is available on any device, anywhere, and anytime. With 24/7 access, you can earn certificates, complete required certifications, professional development hours, and continuing education unit hours at your convenience.

Email TIM_training@dot.ga.gov to get started with a user profile. After your profile is created, you will have access to browse the course catalog and find training and courses that best fit your needs. Your training should not be limited to a classroom; the LMS allows you to have it at your fingertips!

Already an LMS user? You can easily access the LMS via the Traffic Incident Management Enhancement Task Force's Learning Center.

Livestock Emergency Response Plan (LERP)

Training to Enhance Highway Incidents Involving Livestock Carriers

What is LERP?

Georgia's Livestock Emergency Response Plan (LERP), previously known as the Bovine Emergency Response Plan, is a national program that prepares emergency responders for livestock-related traffic incidents. LERP is increasing its presence in the State of Georgia. In efforts to continue the goal of quick clearance and scene safety, LERP promotes appropriate incident management practices when faced with events that include a range of animals not limited to just cattle.

Why use LERP training?

Each day, thousands of livestock carriers travel through Georgia with most safely reaching their destination. However, in the event of an incident involving livestock, it is important to be prepared.

LERP training sets up a framework for what to do in these high-level emergencies and provides responders and agencies with the necessary tools, contacts, and instructions for safe clearance.

LERP training brings together a variety of groups from law enforcement, emergency medical services (EMS), and fire departments to tow truck operators, veterinarians, and more. All parties involved in LERP training benefit by becoming better equipped to respond to emergencies involving livestock in a way that is safe for them, the public, and the animals. Animals covered in LERP training include cows, horses, pigs, poultry, and sheep just to name a few. It also encourages collaboration and communication to develop solutions for their specific region.

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Who is LERP for?

- Public safety officials
- Law enforcement
- Fire
- EMS
- Tow truck operators
- Veterinarians
- Department of Agriculture
- Transportation professionals

How do you participate in LERP training?

If you are interested in participating in future LERP training, classes are available for the month of May. Classes will be hosted in-person and limited to 50 participants with respect to COVID-19 procedures. Appropriate social distancing and face covering are required for the safety of all involved. Training will also be delivered by experienced bovine instructors from West Virginia and North Dakota.

Attendees at LERP training can expect:

- ⇒ Large arena setting with appropriate coverings for weather
- ⇒ Live demonstrations with animals and equipment
- ⇒ Instructors and subject matter experts from West Virginia and North Dakota LERP programs

Training material covering temporary corralling, identifying trailer types, euthanasia, proper animal care, and how to perform animal rescue and recovery for a variety of livestock (cows, poultry, sheep, horses, pigs, etc.).

Registration is available through Eventbrite; event dates and locations are posted on the TIME Task Force website event calendar. Participants can also reach out to the Traffic Incident Management Training Team for additional information at TIM_Training@dot.ga.gov





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Enhancing Safety and Coverage at New HERO Facility

Georgia Department of Transportation's (GDOT) newest Highway Emergency Response Operators (HERO) facility in the Cobb County area recently passed its one-year mark since opening in early 2020! This brand new, state-of-the-art training facility took approximately one year to build and is equipped with three administration offices and one fully ventilated training room. The facility provides a larger training environment and enhances HERO's presence in North Atlanta.

Traffic volume has reduced since the pandemic, but traffic conditions remain a concern for North Atlanta making the program's increased presence in the Cobb County area that much more important. Having operators stationed at the new facility expands their coverage of clearing roads, restoring normal traffic flow due to an incident, and assisting motorists. An additional benefit of the new location is that northern-based units will be closer to the facility and, by default, use less fuel.

The new training room is designed to hold up to 65 occupants, support full media presentation setup, and includes two 75-inch television monitors. Currently, due to COVID-19 safety protocols, HERO is limiting the number of building occupants to about a quarter of its capacity (16-18 guests) to help lessen the potential spread of the virus. GDOT's HERO management gladly welcomes the use of its training facility under these established protocols, allowing for adequate social distancing and a comfortable yet safe learning environment. For inquiries on trainings, please email TIM_training@dot.ga.gov.

HERO currently monitors dozens of routes in Metro Atlanta and operates out of four facilities: Forest Park Maintenance Activities Unit, HERO Headquarters (Buford Hwy), Gwinnett Georgia State Police facility; and now Cobb County. HEROs are continuing to expand their presence and recently acquired ownership of the old 400 Toll Plaza. With the GA 400 project underway, activation of this facility will be instrumental in broadening their services within the 400 Corridor.





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GA Dept of Driver Services (DDS) Supported Identity Theft Awareness Week

Federal Identity Theft Awareness Week may have been earlier in February but the Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) has valuable information on ways to safeguard your Georgia driver's license and/or Identification card.



"Identity theft is at an all-time high," said DDS Commissioner Spencer R. Moore. "A driver's license/ID is highly targeted by criminals attempting to commit identity theft or fraud because of the Personally identifiable information (PII) that it contains."

While identity theft can happen to anyone, there are some important steps you can take to reduce your risk:

- Be sure to keep all forms of ID in a safe and secure location including any temporary credentials or receipts from DDS. These will become helpful if your driver's license or ID Card is lost or stolen, and you need a replacement.
- Create or Reestablish a DDS Online Account using the official state driver services website dds.georgia.gov. A recent technology upgrade incorporates two-factor authentication to better protect your DDS Online Services profile.
- Download the free mobile app DDS 2 GO and opt-in to receive mobile alerts any time there is a change in your license status.

Having a DDS Online Account and downloading DDS 2 GO will also make it easier to:

- Change your address
- Check for any points on your driving record
- View, print, or email details on your Suspension or Reinstatement
- Pay any Super Speeder, Reinstatement, or Pending Suspension fines and/or fees
- Check your license status especially after paying tickets to verify that your driving record has Renew Online (if you have a REAL-ID Gold or Black Star on your license and are age 64 or younger)
- Pre-Apply Online and DDS will have your completed application waiting for you when you arrive for service in one of our convenient Customer Services Centers.

For complete driver education and licensing information, please visit dds.georgia.gov.



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Upcoming Events

March

TIME Training Committee Meeting: March 17th

Sanders Fire SHRP 2 Training: March 17th; March 25th

Chatham County TIM Meeting: March 22nd

TIME Programs Committee Meeting: March 26th

April

TRIP AIR and Managers Meeting: April 14th

TIME Task Force Quarterly Meeting: April 22nd

National Work Zone Awareness Week: April 26th-30th

Murray County TIM Meeting: April 29th

May

TRIP AIR and Managers Meeting: May 12th

LERP Training (Athens): May 17th

LERP Training (Bullock): May 18th

Lerp Training (Lowndes) & TIME Training Committee Meeting CES HQ/
Conference Call: May 19th

LERP Training (Carroll): May 21st

To stay up-to-date on TIME Task Force events, please visit
www.timetaskforce.com/calendar.