

National Traffic Incident Response Week Talking Points

CORE MESSAGE:

Emergency responders across the country work tirelessly to help save lives at the scene of traffic incidents. Every year hundreds of emergency responders experience close calls, or are struck and either injured or killed while responding to these incidents, and at incident scenes. **November 13-19, 2017**, has been designated by the Federal Highway Administration as **National Traffic Incident Response Week** to draw public awareness to the dangers emergency responders face when reacting to a traffic incident. At the same time, it is important that drivers understand they are also at risk of injury or death in and around these scenes. The response of a driver is just as important as the response of the person towing a vehicle, rescuing the trapped, healing the injured and investigating the incident.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

❖ Drivers:

- ❖ Slow down and move over when passing by an incident scene to provide a protective buffer for you, for responders, and the motorists behind you.
 - Nearly 13% of the firefighters and police officers who die in the line of duty are killed in vehicle-related incidents.²
 - Traffic incidents are the number one cause of death of EMS/EMT responders.³
 - Traffic incidents are the leading cause of death for police officers.⁴
 - You can get a ticket if you do not slow down and move over.
- If you can steer it, clear it. Many drivers think they should not move their car if they are involved in a fender-bender or crash. Even if their car is drivable and there are no injuries, they believe they should wait until the police arrive and can make an accident report before moving their cars. But this is not true and actually puts them, their cars and other people's lives at risk:
 - If (and only if) your car is drivable and there are no injuries, you should move your car to the shoulder or nearby safe place off of the road.
- Know your state's laws about what to do in a traffic incident.

❖ Media:

- Share traffic reporter awareness briefing. Help drivers avoid the incident scene.
- Remind drivers to move over and slow down when passing responders assisting motorists on the side of the road and, if they are involved in a traffic incident, to move their cars out of the roadway if the vehicles are drivable and there are no injuries for their safety.

❖ Grassroots Organizations:

- Use grassroots organizations, including Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs); AmeriCorps; Vista; University Transportation Centers, etc.

❖ Everyone:

- Share this information with family, friends, co-workers, and community leaders.

WHAT IS TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT (TIM)?



TIM consists of a planned and coordinated multi-disciplinary process to detect, respond to, and clear traffic incidents so that traffic flow may be restored as safely and quickly as possible. Effective TIM reduces the duration and impacts of traffic incidents and improves the safety of motorists, crash victims, and emergency responders. This coordinated process involves a number of public and private sector partners, including:

- Law Enforcement
- Fire and Rescue
- Emergency Medical Services
- Transportation
- Public Safety Communications
- Emergency Management
- Towing and Recovery
- Hazardous Materials Contractors
- Traffic Information Media



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Sources:

1. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 2015 Traffic Safety Facts. <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812318>
2. <http://www.mcdot.maricopa.gov/news/2011/smartdrive.htm>
3. Maguire B, Hunting K, Smith G, Levick N. [2002]. Occupational fatalities in emergency medical services: a hidden crisis. Ann Emerg Med 40: 629. Benincasa, Robert. Study: Traffic Incidents Top Cause Of Police Deaths, National Public Radio, May 13, 2010. Traffic kills more officers than guns according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=126800395>
4. http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/congestion_report_04/chapter2.htm

