Traffic Incident Management — Clearing Lanes Safely

Crashes cause congestion and congestion causes crashes.

In fact, crashes, disabled vehicles, and other roadway incidents cause nearly 25 percent of nonrecurring traffic congestion in the U.S., according to the Federal Highway Administration (https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/program_areas/reduce-non-cong.htm). And when traffic starts to back up from an incident, it increases the likelihood of a secondary crash.

To help break this cycle of incidents and congestion, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) work together with local law enforcement to clear incidents as quickly and safely as possible through the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) program.

FDOT’s Regional Transportation Management Center’s (RTMC) role in TIM is incident detection and communication with first responders. RTMC operators use intelligent transportation systems technology, including roadway sensors and video cameras, to detect slowdowns caused by incidents. Operators communicate with Road Rangers and FHP dispatchers to ensure a quick response to the scene. They also communicate incident information to drivers by posting alerts on overhead message boards and the state’s 511 system.

To learn more about TIM in Central Florida, visit www.cftim.com.
TIM Teams

Central Florida has four TIM Teams serving different geographic areas. Team members include FDOT, FHP, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Road Rangers, local law enforcement and fire rescue agencies, towing and recovery companies, and others. The teams work to improve communication, coordination, and cooperation among incident responders.

How Can I Help?

Motorists can help keep first responders safe and avoid adding to congestion by obeying Florida’s two Safe, Quick Clearance laws:

- **Move Over**: Drivers are required to move over one lane, when able to do so safely, or slow down to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when passing an emergency vehicle stopped by the side of the road with lights flashing.

- **Move It**: If a vehicle is involved in a crash, there are no injuries, and the vehicle is movable, then the drivers involved are required by law to move their vehicles off the travel lanes to the nearest safe location.

For roadside assistance, call *FHP (‘347) from your mobile phone.

For more information, visit CFLsmartroads.com