

Oregon Traffic Incident Management Responder Training

The Oregon Energy Plan identified Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) as a strategy to reduce energy consumption in the transportation sector. The Oregon Transportation Research Education Consortium (OTREC) has taken the initiative to define and support ITS strategies that can be implemented in Oregon. Current research and experience provides compelling evidence for the combined safety and energy-savings benefits of coordinated incident management.

This project provides an opportunity for response personnel throughout the state to work together to establish a Traffic Incident Management Implementation Committee to launch and implement a nationally developed traffic incident response-training program. The Implementation Committee will work very closely with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) representatives to develop a statewide implementation plan, identify trainers throughout the state, train those trainers, and establish a mechanism for routing responder training. The training will provide a unique opportunity for responders to learn cutting-edge responder safety techniques in a cross-jurisdictional environment. This effort will build on current success in safely and effectively managing highway incidents by further enhancing public and responder safety while also reducing congestion and energy use.

GOALS:

Align with the Governor’s 10-Year Energy Plan. On December 17, 2012, Governor Kitzhaber released a 10-Year Energy Action Plan. The plan identifies the goal to “accelerate the market transformation to a more efficient, cleaner transportation system.” The plan identifies the goal to “accelerate the market transformation to a more efficient, cleaner transportation system” and intelligent transportation systems are identified as a key strategy.

Saving Lives. Better training leads to faster incident response and clearance. This means fewer secondary crashes result from the original incident and less exposure to moving traffic while the incident is resolved.

Saving Money. Efficient response also saves money. In Atlanta, improved incident clearance practices reduced secondary crashes by 69 percent in 12 months, saving lives and more than \$1 million.

Saving Time. Well-trained responders can cut clearance time in half, decreasing delays caused by incident-related congestion. Train-the-trainer courses help responders learn quickly and across disciplines.

COMMITMENT:

Participation by a key decision maker on the Implementation Committee
Attendance at three (3) in-person Implementation Committee meetings

OUTCOMES:

Declaration of Cooperation/Implementation Plan



SHRP2 TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT RESPONDER TRAINING

Traffic incidents, including crashes, disabled vehicles and debris on the road, create unsafe situations; put motorists, and responders' lives at risk; and account for approximately 25 percent of all traffic delays. For each minute that a freeway travel lane is blocked during peak use, an estimated 4 minutes of delay result after the incident is cleared. This estimate accounts for 4.2 billion hours per year in delays. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Transportation Strategic Plan Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 – FY2015 reports that Americans burn more than 2.8 billion gallons of gasoline every year while stuck in incident-related traffic.



In response to Congress' directive to improve the efficiency and safety of the U.S. highway system, The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is offering the first national, multi-disciplinary traffic incident management (TIM)

process and training program. The unique training for first responders promotes a shared understanding of the requirements for safe, quick clearance at traffic incident scenes; prompt, reliable and open communications; and motorist and responder safeguards. Governors, transportation leaders and incident response agencies across the country can save lives, time and money by promoting the full-scale deployment of the innovative TIM training program.

The TIM training program focuses on a response effort that protects motorists and responders while minimizing the impact on traffic flow. TIM efforts include detecting, verifying and responding to incidents; clearing the incident scene; and restoring traffic flow.

Using a multiple-discipline perspective, first responders within States, regions and localities learn how to operate more efficiently and collectively. The training covers many topics including recommended TIM procedures and techniques. For example, first responders learn how the placement of response vehicles and traffic

control devices can either aid or impede responder and motorist safety, and can impact how quickly traffic flow can be restored.

Extensive research and testing have gone into the development of the TIM training program launched nationwide. Flexible delivery approaches allow trainers to customize the training for one or multiple disciplines or for a large or a small group. Trainers completing the Train-the-Trainer TIM program have provided overwhelmingly favorable responses, expressing much interest in promoting and recommending the training to others. Efforts are underway to encourage deployment of the TIM training program nationwide.

BENEFITS

- ▶ **Saving Lives.** Better training leads to faster incident response and clearance. This means fewer secondary crashes result from the original incident and less exposure to moving traffic while the incident is resolved.
- ▶ **Saving Money.** Efficient response also saves money. In Atlanta, improved incident clearance practices reduced secondary crashes by 69 percent in 12 months, saving lives and more than \$1 million.
- ▶ **Saving Time.** Well-trained responders can cut clearance time in half, decreasing delays caused by incident-related congestion. Train-the-trainer courses help responders learn more quickly.



STRATEGIC HIGHWAY RESEARCH PROGRAM

National Support Needed to Improve Highway Safety and Reduce Congestion

The Second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2) delivered two products to improve traffic incident on-scene management. The first product is a multi-disciplinary training course that promotes a shared understanding of the requirements for quick clearance and safeguards responders and motorists. The second product is a 2-day *Train-the-Trainer* course that facilitates widespread use of the multi-disciplinary training. Governors, transportation leaders, police, and firefighters across the country can save money, time, and lives by championing full-scale deployment of these innovative training courses focused on traffic incident management (TIM).

SHRP 2 was created by Congress to address the challenges of moving people and goods efficiently and safely on the Nation’s highways. This short-term research program addresses four strategic focus areas:

- **Safety** - The role of human behavior in highway safety.
- **Renewal** - More efficient highway project delivery.
- **Reliability** - Congestion reduction through improved travel time.
- **Capacity** - Improved integration of community, economic, and environmental considerations for new highway capacity.

Training Objectives

The new multi-agency National Traffic Incident Management Training Program equips responders with a common set of core competencies and assists them in achieving the TIM National Unified Goal of strengthening TIM programs in the areas of:

- Responder safety.
- Safe, quick clearance.
- Prompt, reliable, and interoperable communications.

Flexible delivery approaches for full-scale implementation of the TIM training courses are also under development.

Program Strengths

- Promotes more effective multi-agency, coordinated, and planned incident response.
- Improves responder safety.
- Improves travel-time reliability for person and freight trips on the Nation’s highways by improving incident clearance time.
- Reduces congestion, collisions, and delays caused by secondary crashes.

Key to Success

In order to effectively strengthen TIM activities, the training courses must reach a majority of the Nation’s TIM responders. You can affect change by encouraging the deployment of the new National TIM Training Program in your State.

1:4

For each minute a freeway lane is blocked

during peak use, an estimated 4 minutes of delay result after the incident is cleared, accounting for 4.2 billion hours/year in delays.

13%

Nearly 13% of police officer & firefighter

line-of-duty deaths result from vehicle-related incidents.