**Tow Truck Driver, TIME Program Partner Struck and Killed on I-94**

The TIME Program would like to extend our deepest sympathies to all of the family and friends of Nate Walsh, Operations Manager for Jerry’s Towing in Roberts and former owner of Loft Towing in Osseo. Nate was tragically killed on Monday while assisting a motorist along I-94 near Osseo. His loss to his family, his profession and the WI Towing Association is difficult to accept or understand.

A family friend says a fund for the family has been set up. Donations can be dropped off at any United Bank location, or mailed to P.O. Box 10, Osseo, 54758. Online donations are being accepted through PayPal. The account is nathanwalshbenefit@gmail.com.

Funeral arrangements for Walsh are scheduled for October 23 in Osseo, with visitation from 10am to 1pm at Shiefelbein Funeral Home and 2pm to 3pm at Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church, followed by a funeral service at the church at 3pm.

Nate was very involved in the Northwest Region TIME Program and attended the last meeting just two weeks before his untimely death. He was wearing reflective gear and near a tow truck with flashing emergency lights when he was struck.

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**Traffic Incident Management Area (TIMA) Guidelines Revisions**

By Marquis Young

Statewide TIM Engineer

The TIME Program is rolling out updates to the Traffic Incident Management Area (TIMA) setups in the Emergency Traffic Control and Scene Management Guidelines (ETCSMG). The changes come after TIME Program Manager, Dave Spakowicz, attended a June Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Fire Service training session in Maryland. At the training, it was observed that the FHWA was advocating a different tow truck placement than was advocated in the ETCSMG, which was created in 2008.

**TIME Program Announcements**

By Dave Spakowicz

TIME Program Manager

The TIME Program was ready to send out the Fall Newsletter first thing Monday morning when we suddenly learned of the tragic death of one of our partners in the TIME Program.

We don’t know all the details yet, but tow operator Nate Walsh was struck and killed at approximately 8:25 am on Monday morning. Nate was assisting the occupants of a disabled vehicle when he was struck by a passing pickup truck.

This is a stark reminder of the dangers that all responders face at incident scenes. From fatal crashes to disabled vehicles and from formal work zone construction projects to minor road repairs, all are dangerous. Responders must show constant awareness of the actions of other motorists on the road because the “human factor” is always the most unpredictable and the most dangerous.

I remember seeing Nate in the front row of the NWR-Eau Claire TIME Meeting that I hosted just two weeks ago. He attended every one of the Eau Claire TIME Meetings since I have been the TIME Program Manager. His attendance was just one example of his concern for and commitment to safe, effective Traffic Incident Management and his dedication to his profession. He will be sorely missed.

David L. Spakowicz

TIME Program Manager

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Currently, the TIMA setup shows the tow truck positioned upstream of the incident in the transition area prior to the start of the upstream buffer space. The new TIMA setup shows the tow truck positioned downstream of the incident and in the incident space. This change avoids the tow truck from entering into live traffic and then back into the incident scene in order to remove obstructed vehicles.

Both the Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services (WEMS) and Wisconsin Towing Association (WTA) support the change.

“From the law enforcement side, I would rather the tow truck not have to enter traffic again… [Ambulances] are rarely on scene when the tow truck arrives anyway, so they really wouldn’t be in our way,” said WEMSA President Joshua Kowalke.

WTA Chair, Jamon Ingelse, has said that there are no concerns from the WTA about the tow truck placement change.

The TIME Standing Committee has approved the change to the tow truck repositioning and buffer space and TIMA updates will be included in all of the new TIME Program outreach materials, such as TIMA Visor Cards, Field Operations Guide (FOG) and an ETCSMG addendum.

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New TIMA Setup  

Old TIMA Setup
When a large truck or tractor-trailer unit catches fire on an interstate, state or federal highway, firefighters face numerous challenges.

Safety is the number one priority at any fire scene. Firefighters should immediately locate any vehicle occupants and provide EMS assistance. They should then determine whether the cargo could pose a threat by checking the truck’s placards and the bill of lading. Only after the safety of the driver and the cargo is determined should the focus turn to putting out the fire.

Most of Wisconsin’s high speed highways travel through rural areas, making it much more difficult to get resources to the scene of a fire. Since there are typically no hydrants to obtain water from, fire department tenders (tankers) must haul water to the scene. In many cases, the engine will dump water into a portable tank, allowing the tender to go for more water.

While the fire is active, the scene is typically under the control of the fire department, with responsibility transferring to law enforcement once the fire is out. Responding partners may provide aid in setting up the TIMA, or even providing heavy equipment that is capable of tearing the trailer and cargo apart, so that the fire can be totally extinguished.

A large semi-trailer that is fully engulfed in fire will take a considerable amount of time and water to extinguish. This may mean that vehicles from other agencies, including local and state law enforcement, privately-owned firefighter vehicles and tow and highway maintenance may arrive on scene.

The best way to organize the scene while ensuring that all agencies are able to fulfill their responsibilities is to have a Unified Command. The key management personnel on scene from each of these agencies MUST get together to coordinate efforts in order to accomplish a safe conclusion to the incident. Only when all on-scene fire, law enforcement and other responsible disciplines work collaboratively can a safe and effective Traffic Incident Management Area (TIMA) be accomplished.

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The 40th Annual Governor’s Conference on Highway Safety wrapped up on August 28, 2014. Hundreds of traffic safety professionals gathered in Green Bay to attend workshops and training sessions to help reduce serious injuries and prevent deaths on Wisconsin roadways.

This year’s theme, “Takin’ It to the Streets,” highlighted the grassroots efforts and community involvement that are essential to improving traffic safety. Workshops and training sessions included topics on how education, engineering, emergency management services and enforcement can save lives on our roadways. The sessions were presented as a joint effort by the Bureau of Transportation Safety (BOTS), the Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) Program and Child Passenger Safety (CPS).

The 41st Annual Governor’s Conference on Highway Safety will be held August 25 – 27 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

2014 TIME Program Award Winners
The winners of the annual TIME Program Awards were announced at the conference. TIME Program Manager Dave Spakowicz and Statewide TIM Engineer Marquis Young presented the awards from two categories: Innovation and Outstanding Achievement.

2014 Innovation Award
The TIME Program’s Innovation Award is intended to recognize innovative approaches, technologies and/or solutions that support the TIME Program mission of improving responder safety, enhancing the safe, quick clearance of traffic incidents and supporting prompt, reliable and interoperable communications.

This year’s 2014 TIME Program Innovation Award went to “Team Dane County”. Team members included: Dane County Public Safety Communications, Dane County Land Information Office, WisDOT Traffic Incident Management Coordinator Jeff Gustafson and SRF Consulting (see photos on page 5).
“Team Dane County” worked cooperatively to incorporate enhanced Geographic Information System (GIS) information and made it available to dispatchers and responders via mobile applications. In addition, the enhanced GIS information was also linked in concert with Dane County’s 911 Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems. Having the GIS information integrated into the CAD system allows agencies to plan for traffic and other contingencies before they occur.

**Honorable Mention:**
Jeffery T. Gustafson, WisDOT TIM Coordinator – SW Region.

**2014 Outstanding Achievement Award**
The TIME Program’s Outstanding Achievement Award is intended to recognize an individual who shows regular participation in TIME Program initiatives such as After Action Reviews, incident debriefings and TIME meetings. Nominees are also active in the training and outreach of Emergency Traffic Control and Scene Management Guidelines. This individual works to integrate these initiatives and principles into the culture of their agency through training and utilizing the Guidelines in their agency.

This year’s 2014 TIME Program Outstanding Achievement Award went to Richard P. Tumaniec in his role as WisDOT Traffic Engineer, Northwest Region (NWR). Rick joined the Traffic Section of the NWR-WisDOT office in 2007 and immediately began to infuse TIME and Emergency Transportation Operations (ETO) protocols into the daily operations of all functional areas of the NWR.

Rick also actively participates in a number of newly formed and existing TIM-related work groups that meet throughout the year, like the EDI work group and the TIME Standing Committee. Rick never says “no”, whenever asked to participate.

**Honorable Mentions:**
Lieutenant Mitch Gibson, Chippewa County Sheriff’s Department
Sergeant Terrance Cram, Sheboygan County Sheriff’s Department
The Fond du Lac Fire Department

For more information about the 2014 TIME Program Award winners and honorable mentions, head to [www.wisconsintimecoalition.org](http://www.wisconsintimecoalition.org).
2014 WIPSCOM Fall Conference
Sunday, October 26 – Wednesday, October 29
Kalahari Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells
www.winena.org

Save the date and don’t miss the 2014 Wisconsin Public Safety Communications (WIPSCOM) Fall Conference and Trade show - the event for 9-1-1 professionals in the state!

The conference will offer tracks covering the various challenges of the 9-1-1/Dispatch world; Dispatch, Management, Technical and GIS/Mapping.

New TIME Coalition Website - Don’t Forget to Register!

Earlier this year, the WisDOT TIME Coalition unveiled an updated website. The improved site offers innovative new tools that will help to connect and engage TIME Coalition Partners and TIME Program participants. The site will also further the TIME Coalition mission of improving responder safety; enhancing the safe, quick clearance of traffic incidents; and supporting prompt, reliable, interoperable communications.

To fully explore all the features of the new website, you will need to create a personal profile, including a username and password. To do this, please visit www.wisconsintimecoalition.org, and find the login option at the bottom left of the page.

If you have any questions, email us via the “Contact Us” portion of the website.

2014 TIME MEETING SCHEDULE

October 30, 2014 ........................................ 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Northeast Region ................................. Winnebago County Sheriff’s Dept
Southern US 41/STH 441
4311 Jackson St., Oshkosh

November 6, 2014 ................................. 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Southwest Region ................................. WisDOT SW Region
Madison Office
Rock/Dane/Columbia Room
2101 Wright St., Madison

November 12, 2014 ................................. 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Northeast Region ................................. Sheboygan County Highway Dept
I-43 & Lakeshore Counties
1211 N. 23rd St., Sheboygan

November 13, 2014 ................................. 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Southwest Region ................................. WisDOT SW Region Office
La Crosse
3550 Mormon Coulee Rd., La Crosse

December 4, 2014 ................................. 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Southeast Region ................................. WisDOT STOC
Milwaukee
433 W. St. Paul Ave., Milwaukee

2014 TIME COALITION MEETING

On August 26, 2014, the Wisconsin TIME Coalition held its third meeting ahead of the 40th Annual Governor’s Conference on Highway Safety. The meeting was well attended by members of the TIME Coalition Partner Agencies, WisDOT and DSP. WisDOT Deputy Secretary Michael Berg kicked off the meeting with opening statements.

Topics included delayed towing and recovery, traffic incident management training, documentation of secondary crashes and how agencies of varying disciplines can better communicate their objectives and goals when it comes to improving responder safety; enhancing the safe, quick clearance of traffic incidents, and supporting prompt, reliable, interoperable communications.

Coalition Members evaluated the group’s progress since its inception in February 2012. They identified short and long-term goals in order to make the coalition as effective as possible. A task force will review identified goals in order to prioritize areas of focus in the future.
TIM Partners in Focus:
Wisconsin State Patrol’s Technical Reconstruction Unit

On October 6, 2014, Governor Scott Walker presented awards to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Division of State Patrol. The award recipients were individuals who demonstrated exemplary service and courageous actions. Members of the Technical Reconstruction Unit (TRU) received a unit citation for outstanding service.

The TRU provides essential services to the State Patrol and other law enforcement agencies statewide. In 2013, the TRU investigated more than 400 cases that included traffic crash reconstructions, crime scene surveys, event data recording downloads from vehicles and mechanical inspections. Among the most significant reasons for the investigation and reconstruction of traffic crashes:

- Criminal, including homicide investigations, and civil aspects of traffic crash cases
- Litigation against law enforcement agencies and personnel
- Documentation of the economic and personal loss and injury of those involved in traffic crashes

Because of their training and expertise, TRU members regularly provide expert testimony in court proceedings for high-profile cases.

State Patrol Sergeant Tom Erdmann works with 13 highly trained reconstruction specialists located throughout the state to offer assistance through any of the State Patrol regional posts. Using sophisticated forensic mapping equipment, the TRU assists other agencies in documenting crime scenes. The TRU’s diagrams and models allow law enforcement investigators and jurors to see where and how a crime may have occurred long after the actual incident. Continued on Page 8

Total TRU Cases by Year

ETO Program Fall Update

This fall, the Emergency Traffic Operations (ETO) Program will again be facilitating a series of tabletop training exercises in each of the five WisDOT Regions. These sessions will be held in late October and November.

The series will focus on the response to a major winter weather event that impacts the highway transportation system and surrounding communities. The exercise will involve WisDOT highway and Division of State Patrol personnel, coordinating and communicating with their external partners, including law enforcement, fire service, county highway departments, emergency management, towing and recovery agencies, the DNR and the National Guard. The exercises will allow these agencies to evaluate their response capabilities to a major weather event and their ability to protect the traveling public.

WisDOT’s TIME Program partners are critical to the success of these tabletop exercises. Invitations will be sent out during the month of October. If you would like more information on this training, please contact ETO Program Manager Dennis Drazkowski at: dennis.drazkowski@dot.wi.gov
TRU Continued from Page 7

“We work with WisDOT’s Regional Incident Management Coordinators (RIMCs) quite a bit, and about 80% of the work we do is for other law enforcement agencies,” said Sergeant Erdmann.

In addition, TRU members teach technical crash investigation and forensic mapping to other officers. Based on years of experience in investigating complicated and controversial cases, the TRU is a national leader in technical reconstruction of traffic crashes, crime scenes and other incidents.

The TRU actively participates in WisDOT’s TIME Program, promoting TIM principles and technology to aid in responder safety and quick clearance at the scene of a crash. In addition to attending statewide TIME meetings and aiding in After Action Reviews (AARs) Sergeant Erdmann and other TRU personnel helped develop the Crash Investigation/Reconstruction section of the WisDOT Traffic Control and Scene Management Guidelines.

Creative Methods Aim to End Distracted Driving

Lawmakers, law enforcement agencies and tech companies are all working together to put an end to distracted driving. According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than nine people are killed and more than 1,060 people are injured in distracted driver crashes every day in the United States.

Police already have radar guns to help them detect speeders, but soon they could also have a new type of radar gun that lets them detect people who are texting while driving.

Virginia-based company ComSonics says it is developing a device similar to a radar gun that would be able to catch texting drivers. There’s no word yet on when this technology will be released, but the developer says the product is almost ready for the marketplace.

Many states are enacting laws to help raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving and to keep it from occurring. However, the effectiveness of cell phone and texting laws on decreasing distracted driving-related crashes requires further study.

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Distracted Driving
Continued from Page 8

According to an article in the Kennebec Journal, Maine’s governor promises to draft legislation to crack down on distracted driving if he is re-elected in November. The legislation would require those using cell phones to use a hands-free device while driving. In the meantime, Maine truck drivers are enlisted in a public education campaign accompanied by an increased enforcement effort. In Virginia, State Troopers are using new enforcement methods, as well. According to news station WDBJ-TV, a crew of troopers will drive down the highway looking for distracted drivers. When they find a driver breaking the law, they will snap a photo of the offender in the act, pull them over and then issue a citation.

According to the annual Travelers Insurance survey released October 1, Americans are concerned with other people’s distracted driving more than their own. Eighty-nine percent of survey participants believe that getting into an auto accident due to others’ distracted driving is a concern, yet 51 percent of respondents are not concerned at all about getting into an auto accident due to their own distraction. One in five respondents are not concerned at all about the 16-to-21-year old drivers in their household getting into an auto accident due to their own distracted driving.

Fall 2014 Wisconsin Crash Statistics

It has been a very safe year on Wisconsin roads so far. As of October 1, fatal crashes were down nearly 11% since last year. With 327 fatal crashes, deaths on Wisconsin roads haven’t been this low since record keeping began in 1974. As of October 1, there have been 33 Extended Duration Incidents (EDI) - exactly the same number as of the same date last year.

One significantly positive achievement for the TIME Program and for TIM as a whole is the number of incidents that have not become EDI’s. That is because of the outstanding work of the responders at the scene. From quick clearance to delayed recovery to the use of unified command – a combination of factors contributed to many crash scenes being cleared before reaching EDI status. As you are aware, the quicker a scene is cleared, the safer the roadway becomes for responders and the motoring public. It’s what good traffic incident management is all about.

Distracted drivers continue to be a significant concern to all who work and drive on or around our roadways. The number of people who are texting while driving is extremely concerning. We all need to emphasize the need to put the phone down and concentrate on the task at hand, driving the vehicle. As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, new technologies are being developed that we hope will lead to a solution in the near future.

As we pass through our beautiful fall and begin to prepare for winter, please remember to have an emergency kit in your vehicle in case you become stranded. Make sure you have an extra blanket and other emergency items to keep you warm until help arrives. If the winter is anything like last year it will be hard on your vehicle. Make sure your vehicle is ready for the harsh driving conditions. Wisconsinites are a hardy bunch and will handle whatever Mother Nature throws at us - we just hope it’s a softball this winter.

Please travel safely and be aware of the other vehicles on the road. It may not be your fault, but it only takes an instant for a mistake to occur. Staying vigilant of the actions of others may help you avoid becoming a crash victim.

Please be safe,

The TIME Program Team