

The Wisconsin Responder



WisDOT's TIME Program Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2021

wisconsindot.gov/time

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE LIVES. #MOVEOVER



Mike's Minute



MICHAEL JUNGBLUTH
ETO/TIME Program Manager

Every minute of every day emergency responders across Wisconsin work tirelessly to help save lives at the scene of traffic incidents. Across the country, every year, hundreds of emergency responders representing fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services, towing, highway and transportation agencies are struck and either injured or killed while responding. So far in 2021, one emergency responder dies every 6.5 days while assisting disabled vehicles, traffic crashes and debris removal.

WisDOT works every day with partners, including firefighters, emergency medical services, law enforcement, towing and recovery, public works/highway departments, and safety service patrols. Collectively, traffic incident responders work to assist road users in need, applying well-rehearsed TIM procedures to provide emergency traffic control and quickly clear incidents from roadways. This week and throughout the year, we aim to strengthen awareness of these heroes and do our best to ensure they return home safely to their families each day. With each response by our first responders, we may spend minutes or hours roadside, listening to and even feeling the rush of cars passing by. This week, Crash Responder Safety Week, is a powerful reminder of the dangerous work our first responders and highway workers skillfully perform every day.

Thank you for continuing to serve...stay safe, *Mike*

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Crash Responder Safety Week

Every year, an average of 136,000 traffic crashes happen throughout the State of Wisconsin. Many of these crashes create a need for emergency response because of property damages or urgent medical needs.

Governor Tony Evers proclaimed November 8-14, 2021 as Crash Responder Safety Week. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) joins other organizations in a nationwide effort to raise awareness about the important, dangerous job of crash response.

“Thousands of first responders and highway workers put their lives on the line every day to help us,” Secretary Craig Thompson said. “We can help them too, every time we get behind the wheel. Always eliminate distractions, mind your speed and watch for roadside incidents.”

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s emergency responders work tirelessly to save lives and keep our highways safe, responding to approximately 136,000 traffic crashes in Wisconsin every year; and

WHEREAS, at every crash scene, our state’s emergency responders—representing fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and towing and transportation services—are at risk of being struck and injured, or even killed, in a secondary crash; and

WHEREAS, all drivers have a duty to drive safely and take every precaution to reduce the risk of secondary crashes, which includes following our state’s Move Over Law, designed to provide a safety zone for workers on the side of roadways; and

WHEREAS, this week, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Department of Transportation in encouraging all Wisconsinites to learn more about highway crash safety and to recognize the hard work of our state’s emergency responders;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim November 8 – 14, 2021, as

CRASH RESPONDER SAFETY WEEK

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our state’s residents.



By the Governor:

Douglas La Follette
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 22nd day of October 2021.

Tony Evers
TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

National Move Over Day



On October 16, 2021, first responder agencies from across Wisconsin participated in National Move Over Day. Every minute of every day emergency responders across Wisconsin work tirelessly to help save lives at the scene of traffic incidents. Across the country every year hundreds of emergency responders representing fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services, towing and transportation agencies are struck and either injured or killed while responding. This was a national effort to raise awareness about the need for the motoring public to move over for responders working on the side of our roads.

Since 2018, Wisconsin participated in this national event. The TIME program sent out an email requesting responders all across the state to participate in the effort. All that was requested was that they take a photo of some of their staff, personalize a message to show the importance of moving over for responders working on the side of the road and then post the photo(s) on any social media site they wanted. Some of the messages included "Our lives depend on you to #MoveOver or #SlowDown," "Protect us so we can protect you!" and "I want to see my kids graduate." It was an easy and inexpensive way to show the public that there is a real person in that uniform. The 2022 National Move Over Day should be scheduled for mid-October. Please place a reminder in your calendar. This is one thing that all of us can come together on – the need to help keep all of our responders safe!!



App for First Responders: Hazmat



ERG 2020: The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) 2020 Emergency Response Guidebook provides first responders with a go-to resource to help deal with hazmat incidents during the critical first 30 minutes. The ERG contains an indexed list of dangerous goods and the associated ID number, the general hazards they pose and recommended safety precautions.

The 2020 version of the ERG includes general revisions, reorganized general information pages, and the addition of protective distance mapping. Updated every four years, the ERG is available free to public safety agencies in all states and territories through designated state coordinators' offices. PHMSA has partnered with the National Library of Medicine to provide this free application as well as a version of the ERG in its Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER) application.

WISER – HAZMAT: The Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER) app is designed to assist first responders in hazmat incidents. First responders in general, and hazmat units in particular, must make many decisions quickly in handling hazmat incidents. They need accurate information about the hazardous substances, the emergency resources available, and the surrounding environmental conditions to save lives and minimize the impact on the environment and physical property. The WISER app extracts content from TOXNET's Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB), an authoritative, peer-reviewed information resource maintained by the National Library of Medicine, and places that information into the hands of those who need it most.



Response to “Hot Hay” Fire Impacts US 151

By: Michael Jungbluth, ETO/TIME Program Manager

As a young child in the 1960’s, I was able to spend time with my grandfather, who worked and lived on a large farm in north central Wisconsin. One of my fondest memories was helping him stack hay bales in the barn during the hay baling season. Recently, some of our state highways have been closed due to significant barn fires caused by “hot hay.” These types of fires occur annually in Wisconsin and are usually caused by spontaneous ignition of hay that occurs during and after the haying season. While hay fires can occur during transportation, they are more likely to be caused by spontaneous combustion once the bales are at the farm. Specialists say most hay fires occur within the first six weeks after baling.



Temperature	Condition & Action
125° F	No action needed
150° F	Hay is entering the danger zone. Check temperature twice daily. Disassemble stacked hay bales to promote air circulation to cool the hay.
160° F	Hay has reached the danger zone. Check hay temperature every couple of hours. Disassemble stacked hay bales to promote air circulation to cool the hay.
175° F	Hot spots or fire pockets are likely. Alert fire services to the possible hay fire incident. Stop all air movement around the hay.
190° F	With the assistance of the fire service, remove hot hay. Be aware that hay could burst into flames.
200° F or higher	With the assistance of the fire service, remove hot hay. Most likely a fire will occur. Be aware that hay could burst into flames.

Source: National Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service [NRAES].

The following is an example of a “hot hay” fire that occurred on July 1, 2021:

CHILTON, Wis. (WBAY) - Firefighters were on the scene for 15 hours as fire destroyed a hay shed and all of its contents in Chilton. The Chilton Fire Department says Calumet County deputies arrived first to the call at 11:30 Wednesday night and found the shed at Highway 151 and Townhall Road fully involved. It eventually became a four-alarm fire, mostly for tenders. The fire department says 1.4 million gallons of water were hauled to the scene. There were no injuries and no accidents.

“Removal of the burning material and remaining structure was a well-coordinated event,” the fire department reported, crediting the help of heavy equipment from Jannette Trucking & Excavating, J&E Construction, Tasch Farms and Holsum Dairies.

A section of Highway 151 was closed to traffic because of the response for the firefight. It was closed between Salm Road and Minahan Road west of Chilton until about 8:30 Thursday morning.

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During our upcoming WisDOT NER TIME meeting on November 10, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Assistant Chief Nathan Schneider from the Chilton Fire Department will present their successes and challenges in putting out this fire. During this fire and in support of the first responders, US 151 NB/SB lanes were closed for approximately 7.5 hours.

Please feel free to join us virtually for this very interesting topic:

Microsoft Teams Meeting: Join on your computer or mobile app - [Click here to join the meeting](#)

WisDOT Connected and Automated Vehicle Update

In the [Spring 2021 TIME Newsletter](#), WisDOT provided information on connected and automated vehicles (CAVs), summarized opportunities and challenges that are associated with CAVs, and introduced the DOT internal Law Enforcement and First Responder (LE&FR) subcommittee.

The LE&FR subcommittee’s mission is *“to understand and make available clear expectations for law enforcement and first responders when encountering CAVs on Wisconsin’s roadways. Offer technical information and educational resources to local law enforcement and first responders.”*

The first step to better understand the needs of the first responder community, the subcommittee reached out to the Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) partners via a survey. The survey included questions about current knowledge and perceptions about CAVs, benefits and challenges of CAVs, technology upgrades as it relates to CAV, and an opportunity to provide additional comments. The following tables and figures summarize the preliminary results of the survey.

Industry	Num. of respondents	Percentage
Firefighter	201	34.6%
Law Enforcement, including sworn Wisconsin State Patrol Employees	185	31.8%
Non-sworn WisDOT Employee, such as Data Analysts and Engineers	44	7.6%
County Highway or Municipal Employee	39	6.7%
Emergency Management Services	32	5.5%
Other	32	5.5%
Public Works	27	4.6%
Towing	20	3.4%
Liability & Insurance	1	0.2%
Total	581	100.0%

TABLE 1 Survey Respondent Demographics

• Please rate your current level of knowledge of connected and automated vehicles

- 1 – No knowledge at all
- 3 – Moderate knowledge of CAVs
- 5 – Extensive knowledge of CAVs

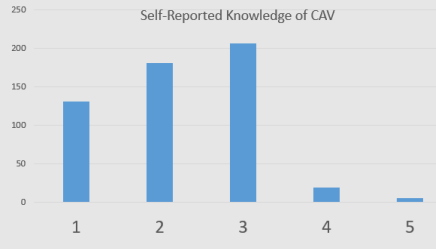


FIGURE 1 Self-Reported Knowledge of CAV

WisDOT sent the survey to over 7,000 individuals and received almost 600 responses. Table 1 shows the breakdown of representatives that completed the survey.

Figure 1 summarizes the respondent’s self-reported knowledge of CAVs. Some that responded feel they have a good grasp on CAVs. However, many ranked themselves between 1 and 3 (1=no knowledge of CAV and 3=moderate knowledge of CAV).

Figure 2 shows the same information as Figure 1, but in more detail and by demographics. This chart demonstrates that the breakdown of CAV knowledge by industry is relatively the same (mainly in the 1 to 3 range), whether it’s the firefighters, public works, or towing.

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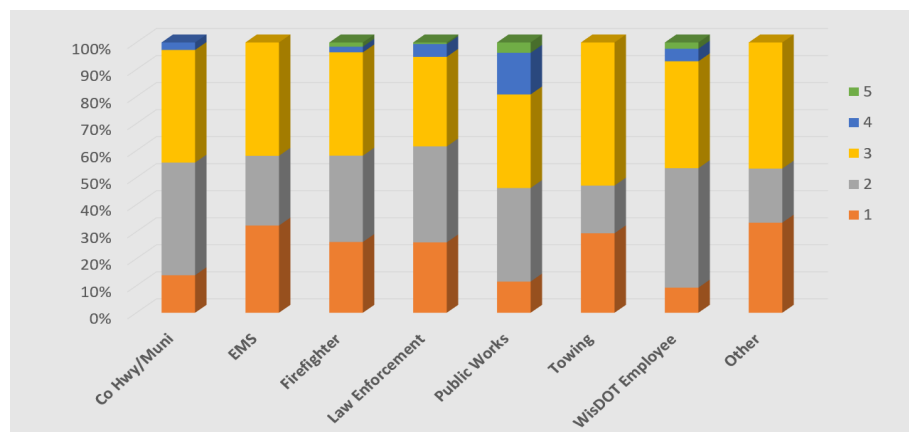


FIGURE 2 Self-Reported Knowledge of CAV by Industry

WisDOT Connected and Automated Vehicle Update

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There were several questions focused on CAV benefits and challenges/concerns. Respondents were asked about their thoughts on CAV benefits and concerns and had a list of items to choose from. Table 2 summarizes those responses. The percentages do not add up to 100% because respondents could choose more than one answer. As you will see, the second most cited benefit is “unknown,” which corresponds to the earlier questions about knowledge of CAV.

Most cited benefits of CAV	Most cited concerns of CAV
1. Reduces human error contributing to crashes (52%)	1. Operational software malfunction (56%)
2. Unknown (28%)	2. Driver inattention/impairment (44%)
3. Improved safety (22%)	3. AV confused with difficult intersections/traffic situations (32%)
4. Detects obstacles in road or crosswalks (18%)	4. Flagman directing AVs at crash scenes (29%)
5. Reduces traffic congestion and delays (16%)	5. Work zone safety/detours for AVs (29%)

TABLE 2 Benefits and Concerns of CAV

WisDOT asked about communication preferences from the group and the best way to provide CAV-related information. Based on the responses shown in Table 3, there are many ways that respondents want to learn about CAV information, which includes the already established TIME training courses. WisDOT will use this information to continue our continued outreach to our TIME partners.

Communication channel	Percentage of respondents
TIME Training	44%
TIME Newsletter Articles	35%
WisDOT website, research links, and/or webinars to CAV developments	32%
State or industry sponsored technology demonstrations	30%
First Responder conferences	26%

TABLE 3 Communication Alternatives to First Responders

The last survey question was open-ended and allowed the individual to provide any comments related to CAV. The following summarizes the key themes in those comments:

- Lack of trust in CAV technology
- Education will be needed
- Inattentive driving is a problem currently, and the problem may be exacerbated by CAV technology
- Rigorous testing is needed
- Vehicles need to have a driver
- Safety of first responders and construction workers is a major concern
- There needs to be a standard way to disengage/turn off these vehicles; it cannot vary from model to model

The LE&FR Subcommittee will continue reviewing the survey data and determine next steps on potential training topics and formats. The subcommittee will also be evaluating the best way to deliver the training.

If you have questions or comments, please email wiscav@dot.wi.gov.

Special Events and Conferences

November 2021

Snowplow Driver Appreciation Day (TBD)
Crash Responder Safety Week (11/8-11/14)
Winter Weather Awareness Week (11/15-11/19)

December 2021

Impaired Driving Prevention Month

January 2022

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

February 2022

Engineers Week (TBD)
Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Conference (2/6-2/9)
Wisconsin Sheriffs & Deputy Sheriffs Association Conference (2/13-2/16)

March 2022

Flood Safety Awareness Week (TBD)
Governors' Conference on Emergency Management & Homeland Security (3/7-3/9)
Wisconsin State Firefighters Association Conference (3/10-3/12)

April 2022

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (TBD)
National Work Zone Awareness Week (4/11-4/15)
Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week (TBD)

May 2022

Emergency Medical Services Week (TBD)
WIPSCOM Conference (5/8-5/11)

June 2022

National Safety Month
WI Towing Association Conference (6/17-6/19)
Wisconsin State Fire Chief's Association Conference (6/22-6/26)
Wisconsin County Highway Association Conference (TBD)

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