MESSAGE FROM THE STATEWIDE TIM COORDINATOR

Happy September and soon to be fall. I hope the days of 100+ degrees are well behind us and all of our responders get some much-needed relief from the heat.

As of this writing, we as a state are at 73.8% of responders trained. We have many more training classes scheduled through the end of 2022, so I am confident we will hit our goal of 75% of responders trained. I know many of you have heard me mention that one discipline we have is missed are our great people who work in the EMS field. There is some good news on that front now that TIM training is a requirement for EMS agencies that receive state grant money. Due to this new requirement my phone has been ringing off the hook for training requests. We will be offering another TIM Train-the-Trainer class soon, so be watching your email inbox if you would like to become a TIM trainer.

Soon many of your TIM teams will be participating in our annual TIM Self-Assessment. As I have been part of all of your self-assessments and we have identified several gaps in our TIM data, I am happy to report that the state crash report will begin capturing several TIM data fields beginning January 1st, 2023. These fields include roadway clearance time, incident clearance time, secondary crashes, and a responder struck check box.

As I close, remember that your statewide team is here to support you, the boots on the ground, and those working in the “crosshairs” of “D” drivers. Our number one goal is to provide the training and support so that Everybody Goes Home. Feel free to reach out and let us know how we can help your organization reach that goal.

David McDonald
Statewide TIM Coordinator
512-965-2515
david.mcdonald@txdot.gov

For more information on planning or sponsoring events for first responders visit: https://transportationops.org/TIM/CRSW
Mr. David McDonald, the Texas TIM Statewide Coordinator, was honored to present Texas TIM Challenge Coins to two Austin HERO operators at the Austin AIM High meeting on August 18th, 2022, Sam Valenzuela and Demarco Thomas, for resource fullness and bravery that protected first responders and saved the lives of a mother and her children.

On May 19th, 2022, at approximately 2:45 PM at the Northland exit off of Mopac, Mr. McDonald observed an Austin HERO truck with warning lights activated and HERO operator, Sam Valenzuela, placing a cone taper to protect a tow truck that was loading a vehicle. The tow truck was operating on a narrow shoulder on a curve and exposed to the dangers of passing high-speed traffic. Mr. McDonald, an enormous proponent of first responders protecting each other on the highway, recognized Mr. Valenzuela for acting as his “brother’s keeper” in adherence to the TIM principles taught in training classes. In recognition of Mr. Valenzuela’s outstanding service to the motoring public and his fellow first responders, Mr. McDonald presented him with a Texas TIM Challenge Coin and his name forever inscribed onto the Texas TIM Wall of Fame. Mr. McDonald also recognized another HERO operator for his quick action that saved the lives of a family of five! On August 9th, 2022, at approximately 3:44 PM, while on his routine patrol area, Austin HERO operator DeMarco Thomas witnessed a vehicle collision that resulted in an overturned vehicle. Mr. Thomas immediately stopped his vehicle to protect the crash scene and ran to the vehicle to render aid to the victims. Relying on his TIM training, as the first responder on the scene he gave a “windshield size-up” to the TMC and requested fire and police departments to respond. As Mr. Thomas approached the overturned vehicle to help the occupants, he saw heavy smoke coming from the vehicle, whose occupants were entangled in the wrecked vehicle. Acting quickly, Mr. Thomas broke the driver-side window and pulled the female driver to safety. Instinctively, Mr. Thomas then reached into the vehicle and turned off the engine to prevent the vehicle from igniting, and possibly exploding, injuring many others.

At this time, law enforcement arrived on-scene and observed Mr. Thomas pulling four small children out of the vehicle and taking them to safety with their mother. Mr. Thomas was described by law enforcement as calm and collected throughout the entire event and in doing so, kept the mother and her children safe until EMS and fire units arrived to assess their injuries. Law enforcement even recommended that Mr. Thomas receive a lifesaving award that is typical to police and fire agencies.

In recognition of his courage, quick actions above and beyond the call of duty, and dedication to the citizens of Austin, Mr. McDonald awarded Mr. Thomas a Texas TIM Challenge Coin.

The Texas TIM Challenge Coin was created by the statewide TIM team to recognize outstanding members of the first responder TIM community for their actions or innovative use of techniques and technology for quick on-scene crash clearance. Since the program’s inception earlier this year, Mr. McDonald has awarded six Texas TIM Challenge Coins to members of the Texas TIM community.

If you know someone in your department or in your area that has gone above and beyond in the performance of TIM tasks, please contact David McDonald at david.mcdonald@txdot.gov.

Congratulations to all of the the Texas TIM Wall of Fame honorees for their outstanding contributions to the TIM programs throughout the great state of Texas!

**NOTE: gold stars indicate the number lives saved as a direct result of actions.**
DFW TIM TRAINING

AVAILABLE CLASSES

NCTCOG First Responder & Manager’s course
2022 class schedule
616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, TX, 76005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>First Responder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 23 – 24, 2022</td>
<td>(In-Person) Day 1, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Day 2, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TxDOT Euless Office, 2501 W Euless Blvd., Euless, TX 76040</td>
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Executive Level Course - A two-hour course designed to give department executives a general overview of the TIM program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>First Responder</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 3, 2022</td>
<td>(In-Person) 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NCTCOG 616 Six Flags Dr. Arlington, TX 76005</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This course is available for all TxDOT Area Engineers, DTO, and DOOs

For SHRP2 TIM Training classes contact Camille Fountain: cfountain@nctcog.org

Off-Site classes available

TRAINING AROUND THE STATE

(For class information and registration contact david.mcDonald@txdot.gov)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Class Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 13, 2022</td>
<td>Atlanta district</td>
<td>4-hour TIM class w/HTCB training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 20, 2022</td>
<td>Sherman</td>
<td>4-hour TIM class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 21, 2022</td>
<td>Greenville</td>
<td>4-hour TIM class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 22, 2022</td>
<td>Austin</td>
<td>4-hour TIM class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 6, 2022</td>
<td>Laredo</td>
<td>4-hour TIM class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 19, 2022</td>
<td>Eastland</td>
<td>4-hour TIM class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 9, 2022</td>
<td>El Paso</td>
<td>4-hour TIM class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TIM MEETINGS

Texas Statewide TIM Webinar
Oct. 19, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Dec. 15, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Feb. 15, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Every third Wednesday, every other month.

The cities of Austin, Childress, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio all have local TIM meetings that discuss local TIM operations.

Contact David McDonald for Meetings and Webinar information: david.mcDonald@txdot.gov or (512) 965-2515.

AMARILLO HOSTS TIM TRAINING

The statewide TIM team travelled to Amarillo on July 12-13, 2022 to teach the TIM Train-the-Trainer course. The team held the two-day training for law enforcement, emergency management, TxDOT maintenance, towing, fire and EMS.

The class teaches trainers the importance of traffic incident management including familiarization with national TIM guidelines for safe, quick incident clearance, the National Unified Goals, proper incident blocking, personnel safety equipment, and incident command. For information about hosting a class in your area contact David McDonald at david.mcDonald@txdot.gov.
Later this year, the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) will host a live, hands-on Push/Pull/Drag (PPD) training class at their facility in Plano. The training is open to HERO/SSP/Courtesy Patrol organizations from around Texas and the surrounding states. The training will cover techniques for safe, quick clearance by using new and innovative equipment and state-of-the-art procedures. Previous PPD training included a driving obstacle course, pushing disabled vehicles using tow and SSP trucks, correct use of law enforcement vehicle push bumpers, the use of Go-Jaks to easily remove vehicles blocking the roadway, and many other tips, tricks, and tools of the trade. There will also be an opportunity for operators to display their vehicles to show other organizations the equipment that they carry to service the motoring public.

In keeping with Statewide TIM Coordinator David McDonald’s emphasis on training, classes are continuing to be given throughout the state. The statewide TIM team teaches several classes such as TIM for First Responders and Train-the-Trainer Classes to certify instructors to teach the four-hour TIM classes to area first responders and recruit training academies for both fire firefighters and law enforcement.

The goal is to have trainers in every major metropolitan area and TIM programs in every TxDOT District throughout the state. To date, Austin, Dallas, Childress, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio have established TIM programs. That leaves 18 more districts to go!

In addition to the FHWA TIM training curriculum, the statewide TIM team offers several other classes that are designed specifically for first responder safety. After the loss of three roadside workers in two months, Mr. McDonald developed a Roadside Workers Safety Awareness class to be taught to those workers that are exposed to high-speed roadway traffic in the course of their duties (roadside sign repair, roadside cleanup crews, etc.). The class is designed to present basic roadway safety in an easy-to-understand, one-hour class where a detailed TIM training class is not necessary for their particular occupation. The statewide team has also developed a High-Tension Cable Barrier Training Program, different from the TxDOT presentation, is designed for first responders to manipulate the system to extricate vehicles safely without cutting cables.
Throughout 2022, HERO/Safety Service Patrol/Courtesy Patrol operators have shown how essential their service is to the motoring public and first responder agencies throughout the great state of Texas. In this issue of the Texas TIM Newsletter, we are proud to feature men from the Austin HERO that saved lives in a crash and protected first responders on the highway. Thank you to all of our “Highway Heroes”!

**April-June 2022 Texas Totals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Lane Miles</th>
<th>Incidents</th>
<th>Services to Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,669</td>
<td>35,610</td>
<td>101,178</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Incidents - blocking/assisting in crashes  
Services - Tire changes, gas, etc.

In 1998, the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) conducted a study of 54 freeway service patrols in the U.S. and found that approximately 64 percent came into being in 1990.
At approximately 1:30 PM on August 14, 2022, San Antonio HERO operator supervisor George Milam was setting up advance warning and providing blocking for a crash on I-10 near Hildebrand. There was a light rain and the pavement was wet. As seen in photo #1, Mr. Milam was watching oncoming traffic as he stepped into the Zero Buffer area behind his blocking vehicle as he noticed a Ram 3500 Dualie Pick-Up Truck beginning to lose control and begin to move towards him. Photo #2 shows the black Ram truck losing control and moving directly towards the median Jersey Barrier. The lower left of photo #2 shows Mr. Milam quickly reacting to the threat and jumping over the barrier and out of the path of the truck. Photo #3 shows the Ram 3500 after the serious impact at high-speed with the back of the HERO vehicle. The driver of the vehicle required fire department extrication while two children in the back of the vehicle, in child-safety seats, were unharmed. Mr. Milam had recently completed the FHWA SHRP2 TIM Training and was employing the techniques learned in that course. Had Mr. Milam not been watching the oncoming traffic, there is a high likelihood that he would have been killed or seriously injured. Mr. Milam was understandably shaken but completely unharmed thanks to his quick reaction to the threat and the TIM training. This situation is a very serious example of how TIM training WILL save lives. The Texas TIM Team wishes to congratulate Mr. Milam for his action that not only saved his life, but also protected the crash scene and first responders downstream from his vehicle. Another win for the Texas TIM program and everybody went home at the end of shift that day.

FACES OF THE FALLEN – REMEMBERING OUR COMRADES

We are fortunate that we have had no first responders struck and killed in Texas in the second quarter of 2022. The last newsletter release without a first responder death in Texas was the fourth quarter of 2021.

We share the grief of our sister agencies around the country and mourn the first responders that have given their lives in the line-of-duty on United States highways so far this year.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT! BI-MONTHLY STATEWIDE TIM WEBINAR AUGUST 17TH, 2022

Since February 2019, the Statewide TIM Team has hosted the Bi-monthly Texas TIM webinar. The webinar was created to bring together first responder agencies from around the state to share life-saving ideas, techniques, and equipment that other agencies can use to ensure our first responders go home safely after every shift. Hosted by David McDonald, the Statewide Texas TIM Coordinator, this last webinar featured Cecil Arient, San Antonio TIM Coordinator and former Oregon State Trooper, presenting a “Business Case for TIM” in which he explained the substantial monetary, time, and lives saved by the proper application of TIM techniques. Jim Comfort, State TIM Consultant and former Critical Care Paramedic/Firefighter, discussed a new training program from the state TIM team that gives first responders the tools necessary to manipulate high-tension cable barrier systems involved in vehicle crashes.

Every webinar features regional reports in which all of the Texas TIM teams (there are nine throughout the state) give reports and updates about TIM specific issues that have occurred in their area of operations. Lessons are learned, ideas and solutions discussed, and life-saving techniques are exchanged among first responders across the state. This cooperative atmosphere is the heart of the TIM program where saving the lives of the motoring public and those of our first responder brothers and sisters are the first priority. This 90-minute webinar is one of the best safety investments you can make so that “Everybody Goes Home”.

THE REASON WE TRAIN

Jim Comfort, AECOM