



INCIDENT RESPONDER TRAINING

Did Nicolas-Joseph Cugnot 250 years ago envision after he built the first steam powered automobile that the world would be so heavily dependent on four-wheeled transportation? Vehicles have vastly changed, the demand has sky rocketed and the impact is monumental in regard to congestion and collisions. The traffic issues of the past do not compare to those of the present and the future.

How are these impacts handled? Obviously we cannot go back in time, so we rely on traffic and incident management. Focusing on incident management, this is a team effort of multi-agencies trained in traffic incident management. The Second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2) developed a program with the objective that responders nationwide acquire a common set of core competencies for traffic incident management. This is vital because the longer an incident remains blocked, the more delay is created for the traveling public.

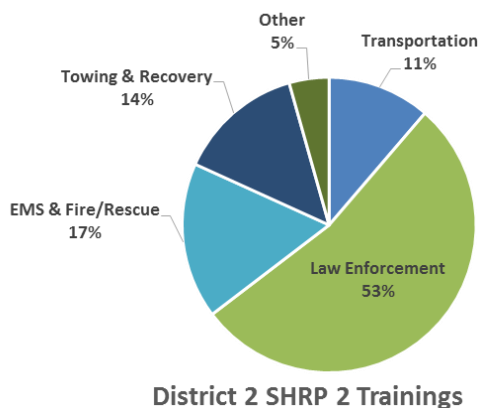
1:4 For each minute a freeway lane is blocked during peak use, an estimated 4 minutes of delay result after the incident is cleared, accounting for 4.2 billion hours/year in delays.

Source: Federal Highway Administration

The Florida Department of Transportation took up the challenge to implement the SHRP 2 training program and District 2 began implementation in June 2013 with the Train the Trainer course. An enthusiastic 62 incident responders and related personnel attended the two-day training and were certified as trainers for the 4-hour Incident Management Responder course to train employees in their agency or another agency with an abbreviated version of the initial training. The comprehensive training program covers statistics, terminology and standards, notification and response, arrival, and initial size-up. It also covers command responsibility, safety, patient care and investigation; concluding with traffic management, removal, termination, hands on activity, and situational awareness.



Incident Management Responder training is on-going and is announced at the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) meetings so that any agency interested in receiving this 4-hour training can make arrangements to do so. Since the launch of this program in District Two, there have been 433 participants trained representing law enforcement, fire and rescue, towing, maintenance, environmental management, and traffic management. Starting in June 2013, over a 5-month period, 112 were trained. In 2014, 186 were trained, an increase of 66%. It appears 2015 is on the path of raising the mark of trained responders. In less than 6 months of 2015, 135 participants have been trained, surpassing the number trained in 2013 by 21% and is 73% of the number trained in 2014.



First responder training ensures a safe and reliable management of the state highway system by making it resilient and able to recover quickly after a disruption of service. The program is managed by Donna Danson, Traffic Incident Management Coordinator for FDOT District Two with assistance from Craig Carnes, Metric Engineering. If interested in training please contact Donna Danson at donna.danson@dot.state.fl.us or Craig Carnes at ccarnes@metriceng.com

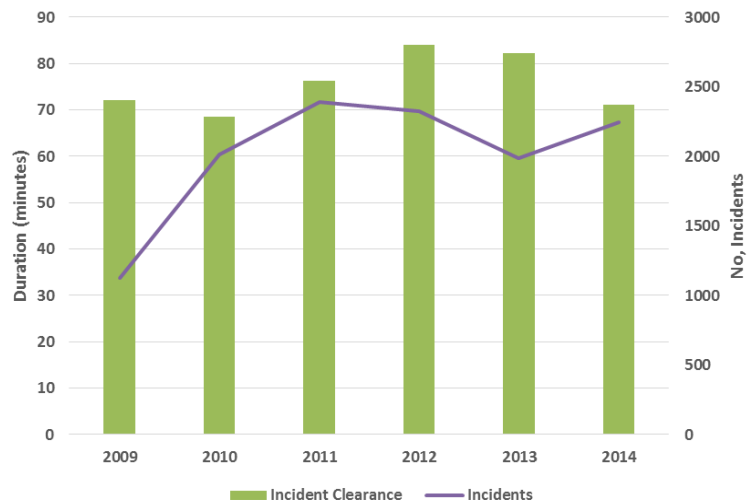
Ms. Donna,

... I have observed my Gainesville District Troopers utilizing techniques that were part of the SHRP2 Training, such as: longer tapers at crash scenes, proper utilization of emergency lights on patrol cars, moving crashes off I-75 prior to working them in a safer environment, proper vehicle placement...I feel SHRP2 training was beneficial in that it reinforced the need to think safety while we work...

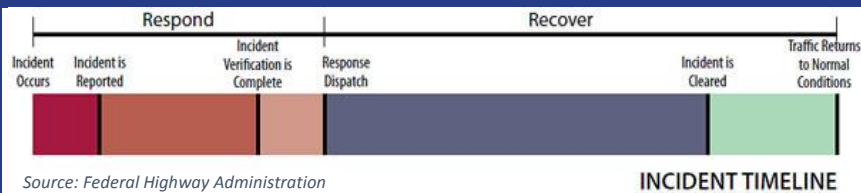
PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Prior to the implementation of SHRP 2 training the number of incidents have risen each year as well as the clearance duration. After its implementation in 2013 there was a non-correlative decrease in incidents, but a minor decrease in clearance duration in the same year with a 13% decrease in 2014.

The road to continued improvement in response is training, teamwork, understanding of roles and responsibilities and above all else communication.



RESPONSE DIAGRAM



RESOURCES

- [D2 TIM Website](#)
- [D2 SHRP2 Training Website](#)
- [4-Hour Course Overview](#)
- [Florida's Open Roads Policy](#)
- [Emergency Responder Safety Institute](#)
- [SHRP 2 TIM Training Video](#)
- [TIM for First Responders](#)

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