



NEBRASKA TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT Annual Report

2025



NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Journey.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



COLONEL'S MESSAGE



Nebraska State Patrol troopers and others who work on our roadways face unique challenges during their workday. Everyone deserves to feel safe at work and return home at the end of the day. The Traffic Incident Management (TIM) program advances this goal by serving as a statewide platform that fosters strong multidisciplinary partnerships, improves communication and enhances safety.

TIM allows us to make collaborative decisions on what we can do to prioritize safety. These principles allow responders to apply a standard framework of safety measures to chaotic crash scenes. Knowing that fellow responders are TIM trained keeps everyone coordinated, improving communication and making the entire response safer.

TIM isn't just a training curriculum; it is an actionable, ever-evolving program that addresses a devastating trend in our Nebraska communities. Too many members of our law enforcement community, including Nebraska State troopers, have been killed or seriously injured while responding to traffic incidents. These are not just statistics – they were professionals committed to public service and protecting others. The family and friends of these public servants will continue to live out their lives feeling the loss of these individuals.

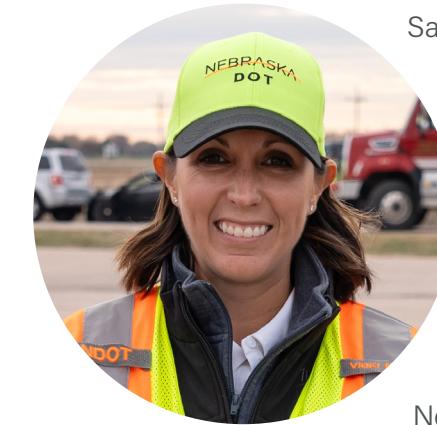
Unfortunately, these are not isolated incidents. In June of 2025 alone, three separate struck-by incidents damaged patrol cruisers. In each case, inattention, speeding and other reckless behaviors contributed.

This all underscores why the TIM work we do is vital. This is not on a single agency to do alone. Collaboration among public safety professionals, Nebraska Department of Transportation and other partner organizations play a vital role in advancing the TIM mission. By prioritizing open communication and planning together, we are better prepared to navigate the increased risks that come with incident management.

I encourage each of us to continue to work side by side to make our roadways safer. Stay engaged, express your concerns, share your ideas — and help shape solutions.

Bryan Waugh
Colonel
Nebraska State Patrol

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Safety is a personal responsibility. As transportation professionals, we carry this message in all we do, through work, personal and family relationships. This is why the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) strongly supports Nebraska's Traffic Incident Management (TIM) program.

TIM brings together coalitions of first responders across our state for training, reflection and mutual support. It is a powerful tool for protecting both the traveling public and those who serve on our roadways. I have seen firsthand the benefits of TIM, from faster crash scene clearance to improved coordination among agencies.

Nebraska's roads are experiencing an alarming rise in crashes, and the consequences are deeply personal. In the last 2 1/2 years, there have been five critical or fatal injury incidents involving NDOT team members who were working crashes or in work zones. These incidents are not just statistics; they represent lives disrupted, families impacted and communities shaken.

NDOT is committed to saving lives by advocating for updated traffic laws, educating drivers, designing safe roads and supporting TIM principles. One recent example of this includes our state's Move Over or Slow Down law, which as of September 2025 applies to all stopped vehicles and vulnerable road users on the side of a highway. These efforts complement and support the important role our partners play in improving roadway safety.

Our partners in law enforcement, such as the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP), continue to enforce safety regulations and respond to incidents. And our statewide network of fire and emergency medical services (EMS), emergency managers, emergency communications professionals, towing professionals and other responders consistently use their TIM expertise to get crash victims the care they need and quickly clear crashed vehicles from the road.

Still, there is a limit to what TIM techniques and first responders can accomplish. As I emphasized during a June 2025 press conference with NSP Colonel Bryan Waugh, drivers must take responsibility for their own actions. Distracted and reckless driving is a growing threat. Every moment of inattention behind the wheel puts lives at risk. We urge all Nebraskans to stay alert, slow down and prioritize safety, especially near work zones and emergency responders. Let us all work together to foster a culture of safety, one mile at a time.

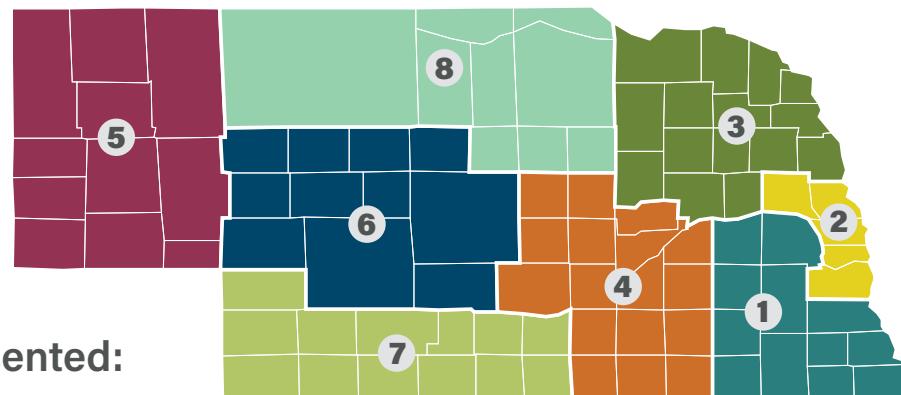
Vicki Kramer
Director
Nebraska Department of Transportation

TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS



In 2025, Nebraska's Traffic Incident Management (TIM) program continued to promote statewide relationships between city, county, state and federal agencies. Multidisciplinary partners engaged in our efforts to create a unified safety culture in the state.

TIM activity across NDOT's districts



Disciplines represented:



TRAINING

952

responders trained in 2025



48 Panhandle responders from **13 agencies** participated in a live training.

Summarized training data is for classes reported to NDOT.

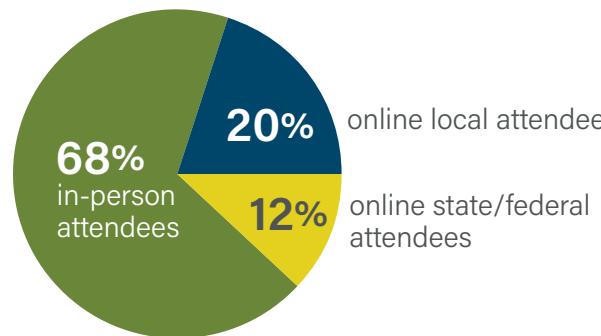
112
active
trainers



52 new trainers
in 2025

COALITION PARTICIPATION

508 unique participants attended a TIM coalition meeting in 2025.
187 of these participants were new to TIM this year.



ROADWAY CLEARANCE TIMES

16,414 property damage-only crashes reported across Nebraska in 2025, with an average clearance time of **45 minutes**

National best practice clearance times are 30 minutes for urban areas and 45 minutes for rural areas. Data is as of December 17, 2025. [View the NDOT Roadway Clearance Time Dashboard.](#)

Rural: 53 minutes

Urban: 43 minutes



After-action reviews conducted across Nebraska's TIM coalitions

INTRODUCTION TO TIM

WHAT IS TIM?

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) is the planned approach to detect, respond, and safely and quickly clear traffic incidents. The safe, quick clearance of traffic incidents reduces travel delay, improves travel time reliability and reduces vehicle emissions. TIM principles reinforce how safe, quick clearance, reliable interoperable communication, safe vehicle positioning, unified command and scene safety are key to bringing responders home safe after every call.

NEBRASKA'S TIM PROGRAM

The program works to establish a culture of safety and promote continuous improvement through:

- Trainings
- After-action reviews
- Live exercises
- Monthly newsletters
- Quarterly virtual meetings

These interactions and communications reach multiple audiences within the responder community and support a better understanding of needs and opportunities to improve safety. TIM Districts were established to foster local ownership and measure training and engagement regionally across the state.

The Nebraska TIM program has been recognized for setting a national standard for local engagement and collaboration. Through powerful conversations, agencies in Nebraska are implementing nationwide best practices and finding success by:

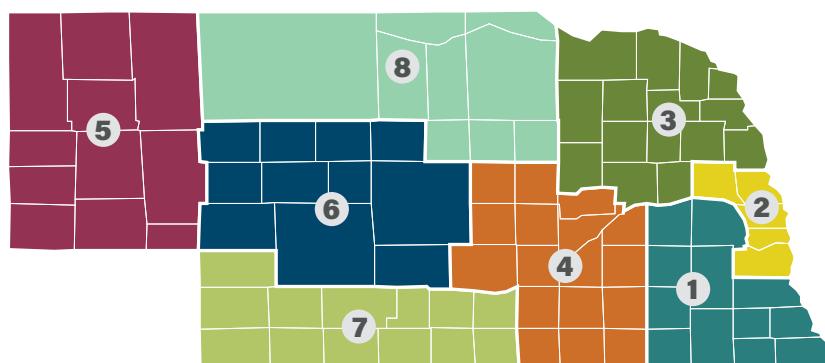
- Building relationships and trust across agencies and disciplines
- Establishing and tracking baseline roadway clearance times
- Training thousands of responders in TIM best practices
- Instilling a culture of safety in other facets of NDOT's business, including Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO), design alternatives and construction phasing

SIGN UP FOR THE TIM NEWSLETTER

TIM partners receive a monthly newsletter that shares training opportunities, safety tips, best practices from actual incidents, program updates and TIM wins. [Click here](#) or scan the QR code to sign up.



NDOT DISTRICTS



NEW TIM PROGRAM ACTIVITY

In 2025, the TIM program supported new activity in NDOT Districts 3, 7 and 8. This initiative gave communities statewide the opportunity to build relationships and discuss TIM practices through a multidisciplinary lens. Now that a strong TIM foundation is set in those areas, local partners are taking the lead to engage stakeholders and support best practices.

Coalition Establishment



District 3

- In June, a coalition kickoff meeting was held in Norfolk, introducing 22 attendees from 16 agencies to TIM.
- At this district's self-assessment meeting, building relationships was the primary focus. Priority topics identified were improving interoperable communications, managing incidents in work zones (such as on US-81 and other regional corridors) and conducting after-action reviews (AARs).



District 7

- In September, a coalition kickoff meeting was held in McCook. More than 45 attendees from 25 unique agencies attended.
- During a self-assessment meeting, training was highlighted as a key focus area. The TIM program is developing a plan to offer more frequent training opportunities in each district by collaborating with local trainers.



"Since the District 7 kickoff meeting, I've noticed our NDOT team working more smoothly with responders out in the field. We've gotten a clearer picture of each other's roles and how we can step in to help and keep everyone safe. That's the kind of impact TIM brings. It turns coordination into trust, and trust into safety for our community."

-Kerry Scott, NDOT District 7 Operations and Maintenance Manager

Highlights

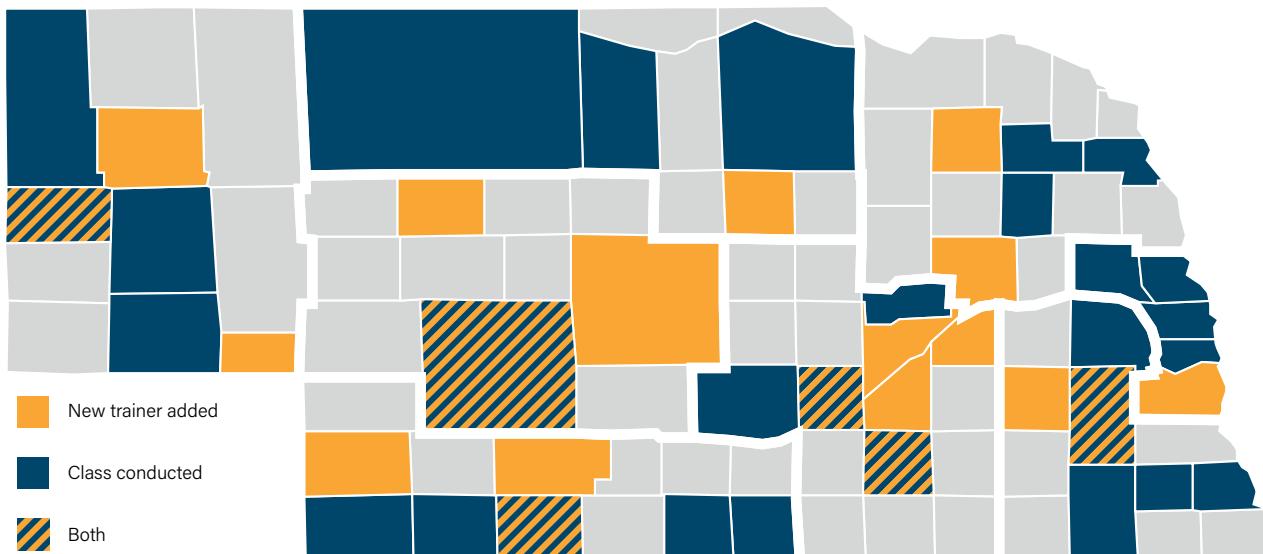


District 8

- In March, 101 people attended TIM training led by Brown/Rock County EMA and NSP Troop B. This effort trained the majority of NDOT District 8 staff and other local responding agencies.
- A self-assessment meeting identified interest in rural-focused planning that addresses scene management with minimal resources and better coordination with tow partners.

Local ownership is the foundation of Nebraska's TIM program; training is a pillar. Training incident responders and stakeholders in best practices for safe, quick clearance saves lives for both first responders and the traveling public. The program equips responders with the knowledge and skills needed to keep themselves and others safe.

2025 STATEWIDE TRAINING ACTIVITIES



SUPPORTING THE TRAINERS

In 2025, four Train-the-Trainer sessions were conducted in Seward, Gering, Grand Island and McCook. This added 52 new trainers to the program.

To support the new trainers in getting comfortable with the curriculum content, a training class was held the day after each Train-the-Trainer session. New trainers got to practice in front of trainees and get real-time feedback from master instructors on key talking points, ways to engage the audience and consider multidisciplinary perspectives.

Each year, NDOT's TIM program hosts a virtual trainer meeting to provide our dedicated trainers with up-to-date program information and resources. In 2025, we shared updated curriculum and training schedules, discussed the role a trainer plays in TIM education and rolled out a new training portal.

New Nebraska Training Data Automation

NDOT has developed training automation workflows that streamline administrative tasks trainers must perform. The new portal allows training event attendees to sign in via digital form, which automatically creates training rosters and certificates. It also keeps up-to-date information on class registration so trainers can better prepare for each session. The training portal has freed up time for our TIM training volunteers to focus on improving safety and teaching TIM principles, rather than office work.

TRAINER HIGHLIGHTS



Officer Joseph Leitza

Kimball Police Department

Officer Leitza led the development of a large-scale mass casualty exercise to test TIM practices. He also led drills, practicing crucial TIM principles like vehicle positioning and deploying traffic control.



Jessica Pozehl

Brown/Rock Emergency Management Deputy

Jessica Pozehl helped train 101 people representing agencies in eight of the nine counties in TIM District 8.



Lt. Ben Brakenhoff

NSP Troop B

Lt. Brakenhoff was a trainer at four classes this year, resulting in 95 people across 15 agencies receiving training. He also attends local mutual aid meetings with volunteer fire partners.



PARTNERING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

One of the primary goals of the Nebraska TIM program is to build a strong network of trust, openness and collaboration across the state. Since support for multi-disciplinary TIM coalitions was expanded in 2020, the network has grown from a few agencies to hundreds of dedicated responders who are committed to learning and implementing safe, quick clearance. Regular meetings help break down silos and foster a sense of collaboration within each TIM region. Our stakeholders include:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
|  | Emergency communications |
|  | Emergency management |
|  | Emergency medical/rescue personnel |
|  | Fire (paid and volunteer) |
|  | Law enforcement (city, county, state) |
|  | Roadway owners (city, county, state) |
|  | Towing |
|  | Other special interests |

STATEWIDE VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Every quarter, the Nebraska TIM program holds virtual meetings. These events showcase how TIM is being implemented in our communities and highlight best practices. Guest speakers from across the state share how their organizations are improving safe, quick clearance of roadway incidents. Additional topics include case studies on unified command, software to alert the traveling public of incidents, a look at emergency communications, best practices for radio communications, electric vehicle crash testing and more.

★★★★★
Overall satisfaction rating

JAN 122 people
82 unique agencies

MAY 141 people
65 unique agencies

JUL 93 people
67 unique agencies

SEP 138 people
70 unique agencies

DEC 105 people
79 unique agencies

"This was my first meeting and there was a lot of information I learned."

"I think the interactive contest for the learning objectives was awesome."

"Great topics today – I am really excited about the potential use of the AASHTOWare Safety platform."

"The WAZE information was very helpful. I will be checking into getting signed up."

"I love the briefs about the updated crash testing. It's good to understand other aspects of response."

"EV crash material was excellent."
"I really appreciate how your meetings are run. There's no wasted time."

AFTER-ACTION REVIEWS

AARs are held upon request from a local agency. AARs are a chance for a multi-disciplinary TIM coalition to revisit an incident through a facilitated conversation with a neutral third party. The review includes a discussion of best practices, opportunities for improvement and action items. In 2025, 15 AARs were conducted across the state, from Scottsbluff to Omaha and Big Springs to Hastings. It takes courage and trust for responders to request an incident review, but having honest discussions is the quickest way to identify meaningful changes and action items to improve safety.

We asked our partners, what does safety culture mean to you? Here is what they said:



Improving safety by conducting safety planning used to **identify and implement systemic policies and improvements that benefit all road users, including vulnerable road users** who are not within a vehicle.

To me, strengthening traffic safety culture means proactively identifying behaviors, conditions, or infrastructure issues that contribute to traffic incidents before they result in harm. **It's about fostering a mindset of prevention, vigilance and responsibility among all stakeholders.** A strong safety culture is one where prevention is expected, safety is non-negotiable and everyone on scene prioritizes coordination and professionalism.

A culture is one where **everyone involved practices, speaks and functions** in ways that show they are part of the same group of people. For a traffic safety culture, this is what needs to happen.

Putting safety front-of-mind anytime, especially when driving. **Conditioning staff to always think "is this the safest way I can do this?" at all times.**

Identifying the problems specific to our job when working on busy roadways, taking that information and developing standard operating procedures, **providing education to our members** and showing them the importance of **developing safe habits** to prevent catastrophes while working.

Training, improved **communications between agencies during emergency events.**

The more our **dispatchers can understand** how responders and NDOT personnel do their jobs, the better we will be at **anticipating needs and gathering information** for responders.

Creating an environment where safety is not just a policy, but a shared value across all disciplines.



CONSTRUCTION COORDINATION



The Nebraska TIM program is a natural platform to improve first responder coordination before major construction projects take place. Our partners proactively communicate traffic impacts like short- and long-duration closures, access changes and discuss ways to improve incident response during construction.

In 2025, partners in District 1 conducted a walk-through tour of the I-80 three-lane expansion project from NW 56th Street to Pleasant Dale before the first traffic switch so responders could see the construction area and construction site access. At meetings, stakeholders discussed how they could better access, respond to and manage traffic during incidents in the work zone. This area had limited shoulders and no available emergency turnarounds in the work zone – these discussions led to plans and procedures that decrease response times.

During the summer, the NSP conducted work zone speed enforcement for the I-80 project. They stopped 36 drivers in three hours.

Local NSP Troop H Lt. Paul Jacobson made an educational social media video to share information on upcoming traffic shifts. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

CONFERENCE OUTREACH

Conferences are a great channel for partners to be reintroduced to TIM principles, ask questions and share challenges they see. The TIM program attended four conferences this year.

- Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association Fire School, Grand Island
- Police Officers Association of Nebraska/ Nebraska Sheriff's Association (POAN/ NSA) Conference, Kearney
- Nebraska State Volunteer Fire Association (NSVFA) annual conference, Kearney
- NDOT Highway Safety Office Highway Safety Conference, Kearney

- A workshop highlighted how local partners are collaborating on traffic incident response to improve post-crash care. Panelists shared an AAR held in Merrick County, giving attendees a first-hand look at the value these reviews provide.

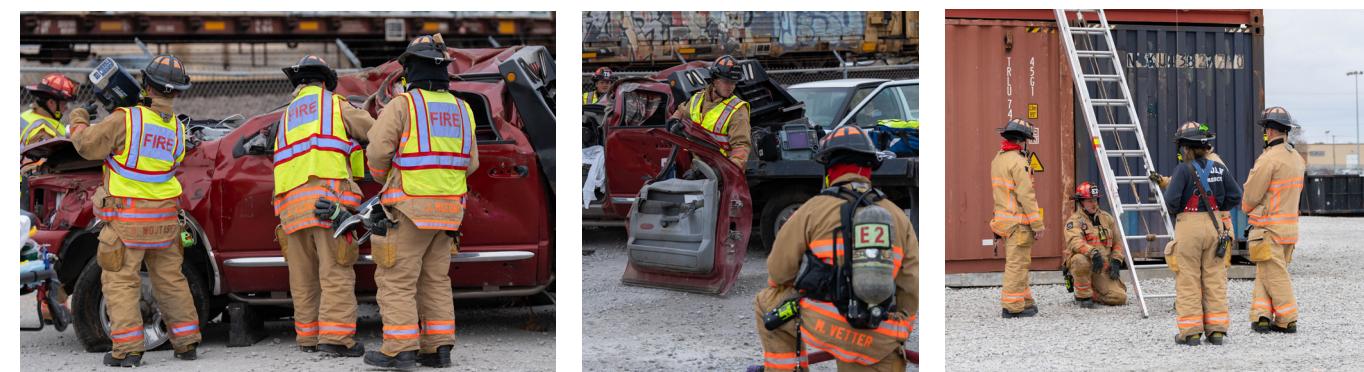


LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

NDOT supports common-sense legislation focused on proven tactics that save lives on our roads. In September 2025, new traffic safety laws went into effect in Nebraska, including an updated move-over law that required drivers to slow down or move over when approaching all stopped vehicles and vulnerable road users on the side of the highway. It also included increased speeding violation fines, expanding the definition of reckless driving and authorization for NDOT to temporarily reduce speed limits during adverse weather, emergencies or traffic congestion.

CRASH RESPONDER SAFETY WEEK (CRSW)

Nebraska TIM worked with partners to share social media about key messages during the week of November 17-21. This year's national theme, Move Over or Slow Down, reflects the importance of Nebraska's new law to give extra room to vulnerable road users and stopped vehicles. NDOT and NSP held a joint press conference about CRSW, resulting in at least 10 news articles that highlight the perils crash responders face and promote safe driving habits. Social media posts were created and distributed across the state, educating the public about TIM, thanking responders and encouraging safety behind the wheel. NDOT's social media posts were seen nearly 40,000 times and received more than 1,150 engagements.





FOR MORE INFORMATION

 Nebraska TIM Program
NDOT.TrafficIncidentManagement@Nebraska.gov

 dot.nebraska.gov/safety/tim (QR code at right)

 dot.nebraska.gov/safety/tim/training



NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Journey.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION