

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER



TRAINING TIP: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CENTER (TMC)

What is the TMC?

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) offers several resources to support safe, quick clearance, including the Traffic Management Center (TMC), formerly known as the State Operations Center (SOC). The TMC is available 24/7 and serves as the roadway information hub, deploying resources and alerting the motoring public to roadway disruptions. Think of the TMC as NDOT's emergency communications center.

How can the TMC support responders?

The TMC can notify and coordinate with local NDOT personnel, provide real-time traveler information via 511, activate dynamic message signs (DMS) for advanced warning, coordinate with other state traffic management centers, record NDOT asset damage notifications, and more. The earlier the TMC is notified of an incident, the faster they can help!



Photos courtesy of NDOT

What information does the TMC need?

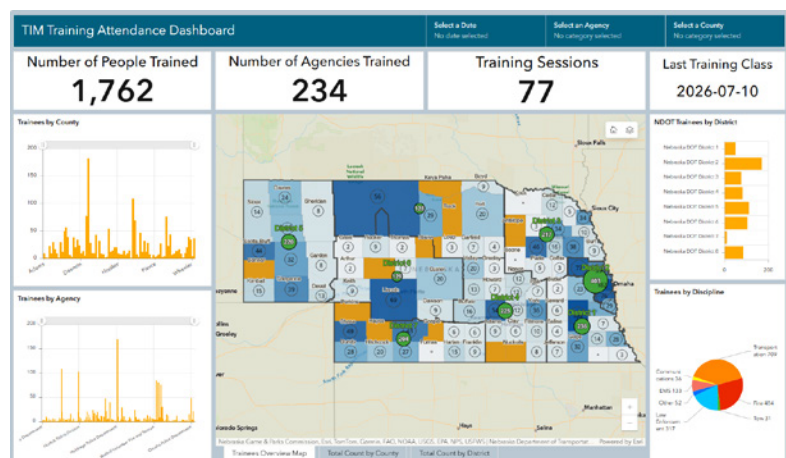
Describe the scene and include key details such as the type and severity of the incident, the exact physical location, the lanes affected, the number and types of vehicles involved, and the extent of damage, including any damage to roadway assets such as signs, barriers, and pavement. Request on-scene NDOT support if needed. They will ask for an on-scene contact phone number to facilitate communication during the incident. Notify the TMC when traffic conditions change, such as when lanes open or close, or when the incident is cleared.

How do I notify the TMC?

Upon verification of an incident, emergency communications or responders should call the TMC at 402-331-5993 or use your area's Regional Operations Common (ROC) channel on the State Radio System. This phone number is not publicized and should be used only by emergency responders.

TRAINING DATA DASHBOARD NOW AVAILABLE!

NDOT has developed a traffic incident management (TIM) training dashboard that makes it easy to review statewide TIM training data from 2025 onward. The dashboard provides a statewide training overview and includes filters to view data for specific time frames at the district or county level. Check out your agency's recent training history at [this link](#). Visit the [Nebraska TIM training webpage](#) to view upcoming training opportunities or request TIM training in your area.



RECENT AFTER-ACTION REVIEWS

In June and July, we conducted after-action reviews (AARs) in Districts 1, 4, and 6 at the request of area responders. AARs allow TIM stakeholders across all disciplines to identify best practices, opportunities for improvement, and actionable items to improve safe, quick clearance.

Have you responded to a recent crash that you'd like to review with other responders in your area? Submit a [meeting request form](#).



Photo courtesy of Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Giltner, Hamilton County (D4)

04/25/2026 (Saturday) @ 1704: I-80 EB MM 323 – semi-trailer fire resulting in a full diversion of eastbound traffic.

Identified Best Practice: Engage the tow provider early and provide them with scene photos so they can bring the correct equipment the first time, aiding in safe, quick clearance.



Photo courtesy of Elmwood Fire & Rescue

Greenwood, Cass County (D1)

03/15/2026 (Sunday) @ 1500: I-80 MM 420 – multiple multi-vehicle crashes during a winter weather event, resulting in the closure of I-80 between MM 420 (Greenwood) and MM 432 (Gretna).

Identified Best Practice: Request resources early and stage them away from the incident scene until they are needed to enhance responder safety and reduce exposure.



Photo courtesy of Nebraska State Patrol

Ogallala, Keith County (D6)

05/30/2026 (Saturday) @ 1707: I-80 MM 118 – 16-vehicle pileup during a dust storm that led to several vehicle fires and one fatality.

Identified Best Practice: Establish and maintain a unified command structure to facilitate effective communication and coordinated decision-making among all responding agencies, contributing to a safer work environment and efficient incident resolution.

RESPONDING TO PILEUP INCIDENTS

Responding to multi-vehicle pileups involving 10 or more vehicles can pose unique challenges for responders. Responder safety must be the top priority during the response, management, and mitigation of these potential mass-casualty incidents. Since 2024, six major pileups have been recorded on Nebraska highways, most involving severe weather. Two of the recent AARs highlighted important considerations for responding to these incidents:

Slow down and expect traffic to be stopped in the travel lanes.

Consider driving on alternative surfaces, such as the shoulder or median, where traffic is less likely to be stopped.

Request mutual aid assistance to divert traffic, creating a safe working area and providing timely medical aid to all crash victims.

Notify roadway owners and request their support in unified command to manage traffic.

Collaborate with the National Weather Service to verify weather conditions and receive spot forecasts.

Use common radio talk groups to improve communication across many different crashes.

Nebraska TIM: Safer, Together



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