

Red and Blue Lights: Ensuring Safe Post-Crash Care and Procedures

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Traffic Incidents

ROADSIDE EMERGENCY RESPONSE IS OFTEN DELAYED IN RURAL AREAS RESULTING IN DELAYED CARE AND POSSIBLY LOSS OF LIFE. THESE FIRST RESPONDERS CONTINUALLY FACE SERIOUS RISKS WHEN WORKING ON THE ROADSIDE.



RED & BLUE LIGHTS

Ensuring Safe Post-Crash Care and Procedures



TODAY'S WORKSHOP

- What is the Safe System Approach?
- What is Post-Crash Care?
- Traffic Incident Management's Role in Post-Crash Care



THE Es OF SAFETY



Engineering



Education



Emergency
medical
services (EMS)



Enforcement



Everyone



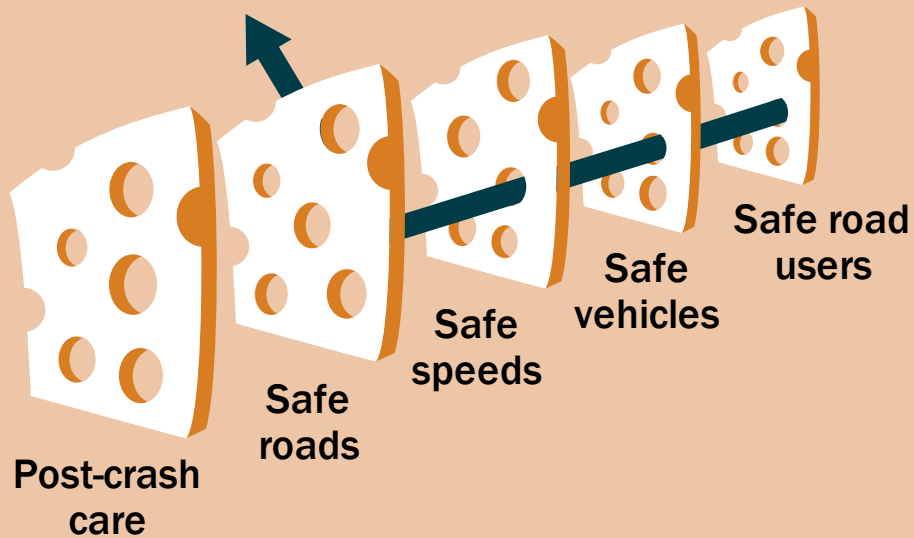
SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH

“A system that is safe only if people don’t make mistakes, is not a system made for humans.”

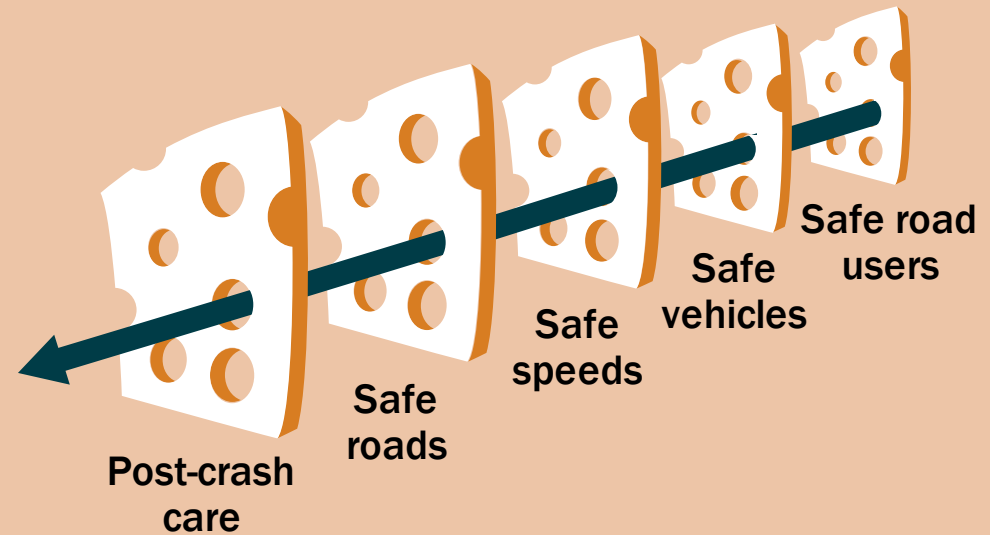
Peter Furth, *Civil Engineering*
Professor Northeastern University

THE 5 SAFE SYSTEM ELEMENTS CREATE REDUNDANCY

The “Swiss Cheese Model” of redundancy creates layers of protection



Death and serious injuries only happen when all layers fail



WHAT IS POST-CRASH CARE?



People who are injured in collisions rely on emergency first responders to ***quickly locate and stabilize their injuries*** and ***transport them to medical facilities***. Post-crash care also includes forensic analysis at the crash site, ***traffic incident management***, and other activities.

WHY DOES POST-CRASH CARE MATTER?

In rural areas, about **39%** of fatal crash victims do not arrive at a hospital for between **one and two hours** from the time of the crash, compared to **10%** in urban areas.

Source: NHSTA (2019)



TIM'S ROLE IN POST-CRASH CARE

- **Responder safety:** minimize exposure to traffic on scene
- **Secondary crashes:** prevent risk to the traveling public
- **Collaboration:** stronger relationships, communication, and incident response



Lincoln - Summer 2021

TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT (TIM)



WHAT IS TIM?

A planned and coordinated process to detect, respond to, and clear traffic incidents safely and efficiently.

TIM reinforces how safe, quick clearance, reliable interoperable communication, safe vehicle positioning, unified command, and scene safety are key to **bringing responders home after every call.**



IT TAKES EVERYONE

- 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



TIM APPLIES EVERYWHERE

- 70% of fatalities occur on rural roads
- Head on collisions are much more common on 2-lane roads
- In rural areas, resources are limited; communication and planning are essential



TIM TRAINING

- Free training of TIM best practices
- Recommended every 2 years to stay current
- **FREE GEAR** for public agencies @ 60% trained
 - 2 signs, 5 cones, and 6 vests
 - 1 sign, 15 cones, and 6 vests
 - 25 cones and 6 vests



*Training
Request
Form*

TIM & POST-CRASH CARE CASE STUDY



INCIDENT DETAILS

- June 7, 2014 @ 0055 (Saturday)
- I-95 New Jersey Turnpike
- Nighttime work zone
- Six-vehicle crash
 - 1 fatality
 - 4 serious injuries

Resulted in a National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation (HAR-15/02).



Source: Athens Banner-Herald

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130

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ranbury



CASE STUDY LESSONS LEARNED

- Establish unified command for on-scene communication and medical triage
- Send resources early such as additional medical units, air ambulance, manpower for extrication, etc. and don't recall until verified resources are not needed



UNIFIED COMMAND

- Allows all agencies to:
 - Work together without affecting authority, responsibility, or accountability
 - Manage an incident together by establishing a common set of incident objectives and strategies



LANDING ZONE



- Communicate
 - Nearest intersecting state roads or landmarks
 - Conditions on scene (Fire, Hazmat, etc.)
- Confirm
 - At least 100' x 100' (40 paces)
 - Free of debris
 - No overhead obstructions
 - Mark with cones or lights
- Use standby!

TIM STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

- Virtual option available
- Typical Agenda
 - After-Action Reviews of real-world crashes
 - Construction updates
 - TIM training topics
 - Other initiatives & statewide updates
- Outcomes
 - Best practices
 - Opportunities for improvement
 - Actionable next steps
 - Strong relationships to promote change and improve safety



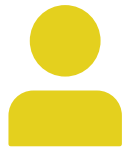
RESOURCES

- TIM Rollcall Trainings
- Discipline Spotlights
- AAR Summaries & Voiceovers
- Program Snapshots
- Group Summaries



PROGRAM RESOURCES

- NDOT SHAREFILE – fact sheets, after-action review (AAR) summaries, videos, quick reference guides, and more on the [NDOT ShareFile data repository](#)



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Scan the QR code above to request training, leave a comment and more!



START COLLABORATING!

1. Find the right person
2. Establish the relationship
3. Get together
4. Keep it going



NEXT STEPS

- Collaborate on safety
- Get TIM trained
- Incorporate TIM practices into response



QUESTIONS



NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Journey.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

