

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER



SCENE SIZE-UP TRAINING TIP

When first arriving on scene, an initial scene size-up report should be provided to dispatch. Key information to report includes:

- Severity of any injuries
- Exact location of the incident
- Number and type of vehicles involved
- Degree of damage
- Number of lanes blocked
- Hazards or unique safety concerns
- Investigating agency with command

- ✗ "Semi crash on I-80 past the Darr exit with 1 injured victim."
- ✓ "Single vehicle semi rollover, blocking the right lane and right shoulder of I-80 WB at MM 226. Driver has minor injuries and requires transport. Winter weather is impacting the road conditions. Sheriff's office is taking command."

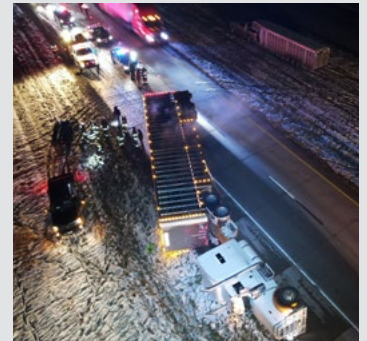


Photo courtesy of Dawson County Sheriff's Office

It is critical to share the right information during the initial scene size-up so dispatch can send the right resources at the right time, contributing to safe, quick clearance. **The information you share is what will get to other responding agencies**, including the tow provider – if you provide details, they can bring the proper personnel and equipment. Make sure to be clear in what you are asking for from later arriving responders – how can they access the scene? Do you need them to block a lane? Do you need them to provide additional advanced warning? Consider the day of the week and the time of day, as they may impact access and response times for supportive resources.



Throughout the incident, **continue to evaluate the scene and assess what is needed to improve safety or expedite clearance**. This can include upgrading advanced warning and traffic control equipment for longer-duration incidents or pushing a crashed vehicle to the shoulder after patients have been transported.

VARIABLE SPEED LIMIT AUTHORIZATION, MOVE OVER SLOW DOWN AND MORE

Legislative Bill 530 goes into effect at the beginning of September 2025. Below is a summary of changes impacting incident response and traffic safety. More information can be found in the [official language](#).

1. Speeding violation fines have been increased (section 26).
2. The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) may temporarily reduce the maximum lawful speed limit on any highway due to weather, an emergency/incident or traffic congestion (section 28) – *variable speed limit authorization*.
3. The move over law now applies to **all occupied stopped vehicles** and **vulnerable road users**. A violation results in a traffic infraction and repeated violations (within 5 years) result in a Class IIIA misdemeanor (sections 30 and 31).

WHAT IS VARIABLE SPEED LIMIT?

The new bill gives authority to NDOT to reduce the regulatory speed limit in certain conditions, such as weather, limited sight distance and traffic congestion. Currently, NDOT has installed Variable Advisory Speed (VAS) signs along I-80 from the Wyoming border to the Overton Exit 248. While currently only advisory in nature, the future implementation of a regulatory variable speed limit aims to inform drivers to adapt their speeds proactively, reducing the likelihood of fatality crashes, serious injury crashes, secondary crashes and traffic congestion. According to the [Federal Highway Administration](#) (FHWA), VAS signs can reduce fatal and injury crashes by up to 51%. NDOT is developing a process to monitor conditions and determine when reduced speeds should be displayed.

JULY STATEWIDE VIRTUAL MEETING

The Nebraska TIM Statewide Virtual Meeting was held on July 29, bringing together participants from across the state to share state and national TIM best practices, discuss resources and strengthen the statewide network of TIM champions. Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) **Colonel Bryan Waugh provided opening remarks**. Additional topics included:



KIMBALL TRAINING EXERCISE

Kimball Police Department Officer Joe Leitza shared information on exercise planning and execution. Training exercises support responders in identifying gaps in their response, coordination, and communication, so improvements can be made before facing real-life incidents.



TIM BEST PRACTICES IN ACTION: SAFE, QUICK CLEARANCE

NSP TIM representative Sgt. Justin Brase shared the benefits of pushing crashed vehicles to support safe, quick clearance and supporting legislation. Austin Nielson from Avoca Fire Department discussed pulling vehicles at the direction of law enforcement, safe flagging operations and the importance of high-visibility safety apparel.



PROGRAM UPDATE

Tim Koenig, NDOT District 3 Operations and Maintenance Manager, and Lt. Ben Brakenhoff, NSP Troop B, shared coalition establishment lessons learned. Bobbi Brooks shared information about ongoing activities and resources to stay involved in the TIM program.

NEXT STATEWIDE VIRTUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 23

We invite you to participate in our next Nebraska TIM Statewide Virtual Meeting on Tuesday, September 23 from 10–11:30 a.m. CT/9–10:30 a.m. MT. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with TIM champions, stay updated on the latest TIM initiatives and contribute to ongoing discussions. Please register to attend [here](#). We look forward to "seeing" you on September 23!



UPDATE YOUR NEBRASKA 511 APP!

All features available on the desktop version of Nebraska 511 are now also available on the mobile device app. Download or manually update the app to access:

- Incidents and closures
- Camera locations and images
- Dynamic message sign (DMS) locations and messages
- Winter road conditions
- Turn on the "Tell Me" feature to read directions and alerts while driving

LOOK FOR US AT CONFERENCES THIS FALL

The NETIM booth will be set up at various responder association conferences this fall, and we'd love to chat with you about TIM. Are you interested in helping run the booth? Do you participate in conferences that you would like TIM to be a part of? Reach out to us at bobbi.brooks@nebraska.gov to let us know.



Nebraska TIM: Safer, Together



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