

SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



PERFORMANCE MEASURES DEEP DIVE: INCIDENT CLEARANCE TIME

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) programs must rely on efficient data collection, analysis and reporting to measure performance and identify opportunities to improve ([FHWA](#)). Understanding the impact of traffic incidents on Nebraska roads requires reviewing performance measures and how our actions affect safe, quick clearance. This month we're focusing on incident clearance time (ICT), a federal performance measure that reflects the time elapsed between the start of the incident and the departure of all responders.

Clearing the roadway of traffic incidents with move it or work it strategies restores traffic flow sooner; however, **the presence of responders on the shoulder and right-of-way continues to influence traffic, reducing flow by approximately 17%.** Working together in a coordinated and collaborative effort reduces the amount of time any one responder needs to spend on scene. For evolving incidents, remember to request potentially required resources, like temporary traffic control or tow and recovery, sooner and stage them in a safe location with easy access to the scene. **Saving time at multiple points throughout the TIM timeline is the responsibility of all disciplines, not any single resource.**

Where do you find ICT data? Unlike roadway clearance time (RCT), ICT is not tracked in the Nebraska Investigators Motor Vehicle Crash Report. For agencies that use TraCS, **ICT is tracked on the TraCS DR-40 form and can be accessed via an ad hoc query.** For agencies that use other report management systems, you may or may not record ICT on your crash forms and/or CAD systems. Work with your local administrators to determine what data is available to you or request ICT be tracked. Remind your officers that accuracy in reporting this data is critical for making data-driven decisions about your operations.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE SAFETY

Electric vehicle (EV) crashes present unique challenges to first responders and require special considerations during response. All responders should consider the following when responding to situations involving EVs:

- Advise dispatch and incoming responders that the crash involves an EV.
- Treat as a hazardous material incident by staying uphill/upwind to avoid breathing toxic fumes.
- Check the tires, place the vehicle in park and set the parking brake.
- Ensure the ignition is off and move the keys at least 20 feet away from the vehicle.
- Be on alert for delayed fire or explosion.



For more on identifying EVs, key considerations during response by discipline, training opportunities and resources, please see the [fact sheet](#) on the NDOT TIM website. Reference the [National Fire Protection Agency Emergency Response Guides for Alternative Fuel Vehicles](#) to find vehicle-specific information for fail-safe switches and other vital information.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

This summer, the Hastings Fire Department received a donation of a fire blanket to supplement their EV tool arsenal.



Hastings Fire & Rescue
June 18 · 🌐

Lithium Ion batteries continue to challenge fire departments across the country, and ours is no different. Thanks to a generous donation from Thermo King, we now have another tool in our arsenal to put these fires out - a fire blanket! Thank you Thermo King!



NEBRASKA TIM STATEWIDE VIRTUAL MEETING - OCTOBER 29

Join us on Tuesday, October 29 from 10-11:30 a.m. CT/9-10:30 a.m. MT for the Statewide Nebraska TIM Virtual Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss state and national TIM best practices and resources, and to create a statewide network of TIM champions. Each quarter, we will highlight different TIM topics and allow for open discussion with responders from across the state. In October we will cover:



Statewide Updates: Learn about ongoing activities and resources to stay involved in the TIM program. This fall we will discuss newsletters, after-action review (AAR) meetings by-request, winter operations and more.



Performance Measures: TIM performance measures like RCT and ICT are critical to measure and analyze, and they can influence funding decisions and agency operations. This session will cover NDOT's recently launched [Crash Clearance Dashboard](#) for agencies to evaluate quick clearance performance and elevate discussions. We want to have an open discussion regarding incident response performance measures for all disciplines - please come prepared with ideas and questions.



EDC-7 Initiative - Next Gen TIM: SMART Emergency Vehicle Lighting: Every Day Counts (EDC-7) Next Gen TIM is a federal initiative focused on technologies that improve responder safety and quick clearance. SMART (Strategic placement, Meaningful messaging, Automatic features, Reduced pattern intensity, Tiered approach) emergency vehicle lighting, like products from Whelen, better informs drivers and improves their ability to see and navigate around an incident scene. This session is a panel discussion answering questions on how the technology has been procured and is being used in Nebraska.



Training Beyond the Classroom: Training outside of the classroom via full-scale exercises, demonstrations or drills can be a memorable way to teach TIM concepts and build relationships in your area. This session will cover exercise planning considerations, with examples from Hickman and Scottsbluff, and stories on the impact training can have on responder safety.

This is YOUR meeting!

Do you have a topic, TIM win or something else that you'd like us to cover during a statewide meeting? Let us know at NE@TIM.hdrinc.com.

Please [register to attend](#). We look forward to "seeing" you on October 29.

NEW TIM TRAINING CONTENT: MENTAL HEALTH AND CISM

New to the National TIM Responder Training is a section on protecting your mental health. You may ask yourself, "What does mental health have to do with TIM?" The answer is: everything! Crashes, like other incidents, can lead to repeated and prolonged exposure to stress. We cannot ignore the trauma that traffic incidents can cause, and we must be better prepared to keep each other safe.

- Safety starts with you. If you are distracted, fatigued, stressed or emotional, you may not be in a condition to make safe decisions on the road.
- Crashes are violent incidents. You will be exposed to traumatic injuries and fatalities. Exposure to these traumas, particularly repeated exposure, can have an effect on us.
- Traffic incidents don't end at the scene. Social media and other media platforms allow incidents to follow responders far beyond the scene.
- Repeated exposure to the dangers of unsafe drivers. Every traffic incident exposes responders to the risk of struck-by incidents at the hands of reckless drivers.
- Invite all involved responders to incident debriefs, including emergency communications, tow and roadway owners.



It's okay to not be okay. We have come a long way in removing barriers to taking care of your own mental health. Know what resources are available to you and other responders:

September is
#SuicidePreventionMonth

- Nebraska **Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)** – Call 402-479-4921 to request a debrief.
- **CopLine** – Call 1-800-COPLINE to reach the international law enforcement officers' hotline.
- **First Responders Foundation** – Programming includes behavioral health services, physical fitness programs and classes, med management and more to serve and honor first responders and their families.
- Your agency's Employee Assistance Program (EAP).
- **988 Lifeline** – If you or someone you know is in crisis, do not hesitate to call.

Nebraska TIM: Safer, Together



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dot.nebraska.gov/safety/tim



NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Journey.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION