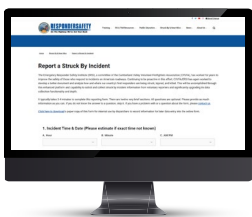


NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



PERFORMANCE MEASURES DEEP DIVE: RESPONDER STRUCK-BY

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 responder struck-by, which is a collision between a motor vehicle in transit and a responder working a roadway incident. The responder may be a non-motorist, an occupant of a stopped response vehicle or an unoccupied response vehicle. As of November 7, there have been 36 responder struck-by deaths nationwide in 2024.



Struck-by incidents can happen at any time and under any circumstances. Be vigilant on scene, look out for your fellow responders and remember to have an escape route ready. The Emergency Responder Safety Institute has collaborated with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to track and analyze struck-by incidents. All struck-by incidents, past or present, should be reported on the [Responder Safety website](#).

11 TIPS FOR PREVENTING STRUCK-BY DEATHS

In August 2024, retired Tennessee Highway Patrol Col. Tracy G. Trott, after working with Colorado State Patrol to understand the reasons behind their struck-by deaths, published an article in Police Magazine detailing 11 tips for preventing struck-by deaths. His tips include:

1. Departments should develop a robust in-house personal safety and awareness training program.
2. There needs to be a dramatic increase in move-over enforcement connected with social media and press information consistently, especially in target areas of the struck-by incidents.
3. Departments should create a policy designating non-traffic or passenger-side approach as the official tactic for motorist interaction on limited access highways, allowing exceptions for terrain, barriers, etc., or tactical and safety reasons.
4. The department should show any available video of struck-by incidents to every officer to emphasize safety practices and eliminate careless actions.
5. The chief/colonel/sheriff should meet with all supervisors in two groups, upper command and field supervisors, to ensure that messaging on TIM training, protocols and road closure policies are adhered to by all as it flows to the field.
6. All patrol cars should be retrofitted with the newest reflective arrow markings and other safety reflectors.
7. TIM training should be a yearly training and subject matter for quarterly training days and/or in-service training.
8. An after-action debriefing should occur in a timely manner with all disciplines after every major crash/road closure incident.
9. TIM training should be mandated for all towing services (every driver) on a department towing rotation.
10. There should be more public awareness on safety.
11. Strengthen texting and driving statutes.

NEED TIM TRAINING?
Visit the [NDOT TIM website](#) to view upcoming training opportunities and to request TIM training in your area.

For Col. Tracy's full recommendations, you can read the entire article [here](#).



STATEWIDE VIRTUAL MEETING RECAP

The second Nebraska TIM Statewide Virtual meeting was held on October 29. Missed the meeting? No worries! Each topic is summarized below, and you can watch recordings of each section on YouTube anytime.

- **STATEWIDE UPDATES & WINTER WEATHER:** Jessica Sherwood provided an update on ongoing activities and resources to stay involved in the TIM program. She discussed newsletters, after-action review (AAR) meetings by-request, winter operations and more.
- **PERFORMANCE MEASURES:** This session covered the Nebraska Department of Transportation's (NDOT) recently launched [Crash Clearance Dashboard](#) for agencies to evaluate quick clearance performance, featuring a panel discussion.
- **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 was 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 covered exercise planning considerations, with examples from Hickman and Scottsbluff, and stories on the impact training can have on responder safety.



The next Statewide TIM Virtual Meeting will be held on January 29, 2025, from 10–11:30 a.m. CT / 9–10:30 a.m. MT. Please [click here](#) to register to attend!



WHO'S WHO OF NEBRASKA TIM

BOBBI BROOKS

NDOT Highway Emergency Program Specialist

We are excited to welcome Bobbi Brooks back to Nebraska as the new NDOT Highway Emergency Program Specialist and TIM Coordinator. Bobbi was born in Nebraska but grew up all over the country. She received her associate's degree from Siena Heights University in Michigan, but Nebraska always felt like "home," so she returned to the state to attend Wayne State College, where she earned her bachelor's degree. While attending Wayne State, she joined the Wayne Volunteer Fire Department and became an EMT, which sparked her interest in traffic safety. She became a certified car seat safety technician in 2008, and that fall she began working for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension as part of the TxDOT-funded occupant protection grant, which was later expanded to include distracted and impaired driving. Bobbi had been in Texas ever since and is now back in Nebraska.

What's your vision for the TIM program? Every life matters, and we work better together! Education and prevention are critical to a successful TIM program.

What excites you about this position? Working in Nebraska alongside like-minded people who are passionate about traffic safety and being able to grow the program.

Tell us about your family: I have been married for 31 years, and our three grown children live in Nebraska, Colorado and Texas. We have two miniature schnauzers and one Goldendoodle. My husband and I love to go on cruises!

What is a fun fact about you? While attending college in Michigan, I played soccer for two years and was a cheerleader for one year.

Finally, the most important question: are you a Husker fan? MOSTLY DEFINITELY – GO BIG RED! My Texas license plate was GBRMOM and so I became known as Goober Mom because no one knew what GBR meant!

Nebraska TIM: Safer, Together



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dot.nebraska.gov/safety/tim



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