

# DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



## CRASH RESPONDER SAFETY WEEK

The State of Nebraska proclaimed November 18-22, 2024 Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) in partnership with Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) and Nebraska State Patrol (NSP). CRSW provides an opportunity to share with the public the coordination, communication, complexities, and risks involved in clearing traffic crashes as safely and quickly as possible. Motorists play an important role in Traffic Incident Management (TIM) – being an attentive driver when approaching an incident. Nebraska understands the need to provide ongoing public education during CRSW and throughout the year to make sure motorists and first responders get home safely every single night.

## MESSAGES FROM OUR PARTNERS



“The dangers we encounter while doing our jobs on the roadway are real. Near misses occur more than anyone knows.” Andrew Weber, Midwest Towing and Recovery in Lincoln, NE. Weber experienced this first-hand in July 2021, when he was nearly hit while loading an RV onto the rotator he was driving. A vehicle narrowly missed him, coming within yards of striking Weber. Slow down and move over for those working on the roadway to prevent situations with potentially deadly consequences.



The same weekend our department conducted a TIM Training Exercise, a crash happened. Because we had TIM principles on our mind, we positioned our apparatus to be protective despite a full road closure. This saved lives of members of our department when a driver didn't respect the closure and drove onto the scene. These best practices really do make a difference.

–Art Robertson, Hickman Rural Fire & Rescue



“Ensuring safety is our top priority as first responders—whether it's for our team, those affected by incidents or the traveling public. TIM brings partners together to promote safe practices and educate the public on the importance of moving over and slowing down when approaching emergency scenes.”

–Chief Tom Schingle, Scottsbluff Fire Department



Many times, serious crashes result in lane restrictions or road closures. When coming upon a crash scene where responders are present, please slow down and move over so you can safely pass without putting yourself or the responders in danger. Thank you and drive safely!

–Chief Brian Peters, Seward Police Department

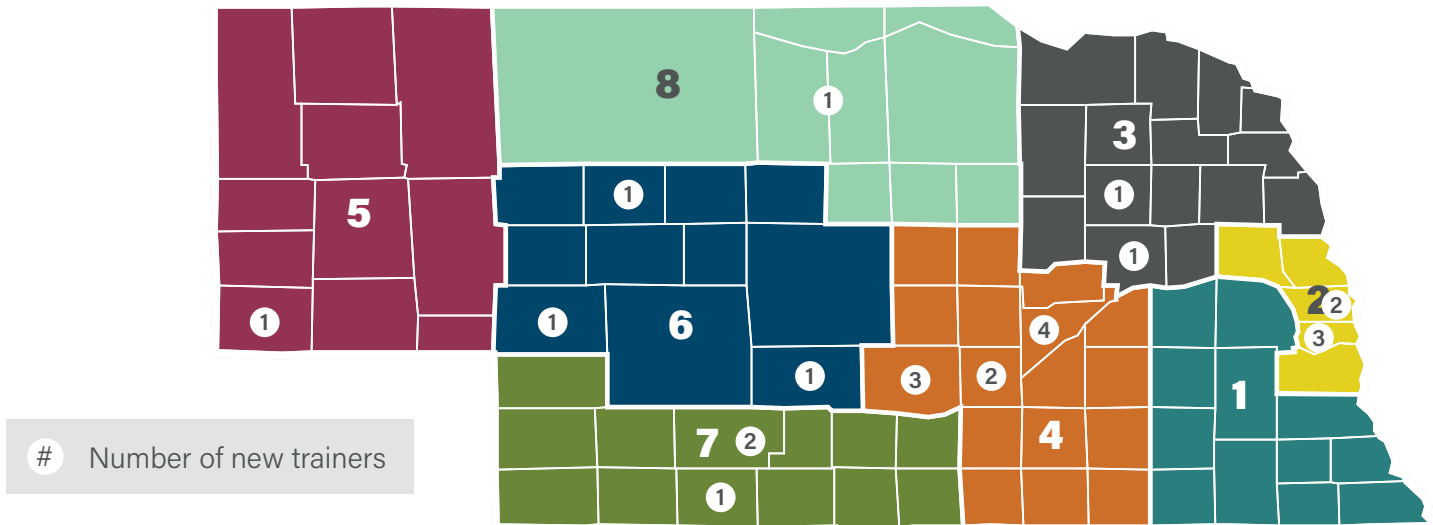


## STRENGTHENING OUR TRAINING PROGRAM

Local ownership is the foundation of Nebraska's TIM program; training is a pillar. The training program equips responders with the knowledge and skills – from the same playbook – to keep themselves and others safe. Having a team of passionate, qualified instructors is critical to getting more responders trained in best practices. To take a step toward achieving this network of TIM instructors, three Train-the-Trainer classes were conducted in Lincoln, Kearney and North Platte this year. This added 24 new trainers to the program, including academy staff, responders along the I-80 corridor and from Northeast, North Central, and Southern Nebraska.



I am so excited to be a TIM trainer and participate in this program to keep my peers safe. TIM classes bring the different disciplines together and fosters a lot of discussion – I can't wait until I can teach a bigger class! I plan to have everyone in the county trained before our exercise next year.  
–Community Service Officer Joseph Leitza, Kimball Police Department



# Number of new trainers

**WE NEED MORE TIM TRAINERS!** Contact [bobbi.brooks@nebraska.gov](mailto:bobbi.brooks@nebraska.gov) if you are interested in becoming a TIM trainer or have recommendations for trainers. A Central Nebraska Train-the-Trainer class is tentatively scheduled for January 16, 2025 and we are planning a Panhandle class in February. Trainers should conduct at least two classes per year.

## NEBRASKA HIGHWAY SAFETY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

NDOT is hosting the Highway Safety Conference on February 19-20 in Kearney. The purpose of this conference is to eliminate Nebraska's fatality and serious injury crashes – known as drive towards zero. Jay Otto will open the conference by sharing Beliefs, Behaviors, and Outcomes. Break-out sessions include:

- Engineering Safety Advancements (cable barriers, the importance of properly reporting crash data)
- When to call for a Drug Recognition Experts (DRE)
- What is TIM and why should I care
- Plus many more! ([Review the conference agenda here.](#))

UNL's Robert Bielenberg will end the conference discussing cable barriers and electric vehicles.



**Register for the FREE Highway Safety Conference!** Please book your own travel.

# NEBRASKA STATEWIDE VIRTUAL MEETING – JANUARY 29

Join us on Wednesday, January 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 January we will cover:



**Electric Vehicle (EV) Crashes & Response:** Electric Vehicle (EV) crashes present unique challenges to responders and require special considerations during response. Researchers from the Midwest Roadside Safety Facility will share findings of EV crash impacts to roadside infrastructure. A panel will discuss multidisciplinary EV crash response best practices.



**Improve Unified Command with TIM:** Unified command enhances communication between all agencies and disciplines to collectively and efficiently manage personnel and resources. This session will cover stories of effective unified command practices like multidisciplinary commanders and unified planning and resource management.



**Statewide Updates:** New year, new TIM program goals and initiatives! During this session, an overview of plans for 2025 will be shared. We want to hear what resonates most with you and how you would like to be supported in 2025 to improve responder safety, safe, quick clearance, and communication, coordination, and cooperation in your area.

[Register for the Statewide Nebraska TIM Virtual Meeting.](#) We look forward to “seeing” you on January 29!

## DECEMBER 11, 2024 – JANUARY 1, 2025: NATIONAL ENFORCEMENT

**Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over** is a national high-visibility enforcement campaign that focuses on the consequences of drunk driving and is supported by increased law enforcement.

Unfortunately, impaired driving occurs on a daily basis, but this time of year we see an increase in impaired driving. Please remember to never turn your back to traffic when working an incident especially this time of year when there is less daylight and more impaired drivers.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

 Nebraska TIM Program | [NE@TIM.hdrinc.com](mailto:NE@TIM.hdrinc.com)  
[NDOT.TrafficIncidentManagement@Nebraska.gov](mailto:NDOT.TrafficIncidentManagement@Nebraska.gov)

 [dot.nebraska.gov/safety/tim](https://dot.nebraska.gov/safety/tim) (QR code at right)

 [dot.nebraska.gov/safety/tim/training](https://dot.nebraska.gov/safety/tim/training)

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